



# Day School Prospectus 2020/21

**ArtsEd**

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# Welcome



**Adrian Blake**  
Headteacher

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**I am delighted that you have chosen to find out more about ArtsEd Day School, an exceptional independent school for 11-16 year olds where pupils immerse themselves in high-calibre academic study whilst developing their talent and passion for performance. Founded 100 years ago by two ground-breaking educationalists, Grace Cone and Olive Ripman, our ethos remains true to their vision, to provide a broad and balanced education stretching pupils to achieve their academic, artistic and personal potential.**

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The most recent review of ArtsEd by the Independent Schools Inspectorate, in November 2019, judged the quality of students' academic, vocational and personal development as 'excellent'.

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Our combination of talented teachers meeting talented young minds creates a truly dynamic environment for teaching and learning. Dedicated staff build warm and constructive learning relationships with pupils, creating a strong ethos of nurture and individualism that enables each pupil to flourish as a person, as a learner, and as a performer. Our successful balance of vocational and academic classes instils in our pupils a deep-seated confidence and a broad range of skills, giving them the scope at 16+ to pursue a path that's right for them.

For 100 years, ArtsEd alumni have significantly influenced the creative industries and beyond on a global scale. They include doctors, lawyers and high-flying executives, as well as leading choreographers, directors and producers. Emerging talent in the performing arts includes current Day School Pupil, Olivia Beaumont, who played Young Maeve in hit Netflix series, Sex Education, and Sixth Former, Isabella Pappas who was nominated for Best Supporting Actress in the What's On Stage Awards for her role in Appropriate at the Donmar Warehouse, and will also be playing the protagonist's daughter in new ITV drama, Finding Alice.

The enthusiasm and expertise of our teachers fuels our pupils' passion for performance and cultivates a zest for learning right across the curriculum. Our outstanding pastoral care and the support and encouragement that pupils give one another makes enjoyment, as much as excellence, part of everyone's day.

Don't take our word for it, come and see for yourself. Join us for our Virtual Open Evening or book a visit.

I very much look forward to meeting you.

# Our Ethos

**Our focus on nurturing the individual and their unique talents encourages every one of our pupils to flourish.**

Exceptional pastoral care combined with expert teaching inspire pupils' confidence, curiosity and commitment to all of their studies, both academic and vocational. Our aim is for every pupil to leave ArtsEd as a creative, articulate and imaginative young adult, assured of their ability to achieve their best in their chosen field.

“A standout performing arts school.”

[The Stage 2018](#)

“ArtsEd is the most amazing school I’ve ever been to.

It’s fun, it’s creative, it’s exciting – every day is a new adventure! We have such a huge range of subjects here, which brings a special spark to every single day!”

[Year 10 Pupil](#)

“I wanted my daughter to be somewhere where she could continue her academic successes, but in a warm and happy environment that’s fun and supportive, and ArtsEd was the answer.”

[Parent](#)





Our ethos is underpinned by our **Six Pillars:**



# Aspiration

**“Don’t just aim high, aim higher!”**

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ArtsEd is the best place for any young person with talent and ambition. A recognised award-winning centre of excellence in the performing arts, we have been nurturing creative and talented children since 1919.



# Resilience

**“Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again”**

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Resilience is such an important quality to develop in the modern world, and especially for anyone considering a career in the performing arts. We aim to develop everyone’s ability to ‘bounce back’ and to stay focused in the face of challenges or disappointment.



# Teamwork

**“Alone we can do so little, together we can achieve so much more”**

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In every classroom, studio and theatre space the skills needed for successful teamwork are demonstrated and reinforced allowing for a genuine sense of collaboration to develop. Our community of teachers, parents, students and pupils creates a place of passion and commitment for all to accomplish something incredible.



# Self-discipline

**“Discipline, not desire determines your destiny”**

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Self-discipline is a key quality we foster, encouraging pupils to develop a range of aptitudes and skills that see them grow as independent, articulate problem-solvers who are enthusiastic, brave and bold.



# Empathy

**“Be kind, for everyone you meet  
is fighting a hard battle”**

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ArtsEd's success is built on strong pastoral relationships that support and motivate pupils. We foster individuality and personal growth as much as academic development, creating an environment that enables pupils to consider and understand situations from another's point of view.

Everyone is encouraged to demonstrate respect, understanding and empathy in all their relationships, by showing tolerance, courtesy and enthusiasm for learning.



# Drive

**“Your only limit is you”**

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Appreciating and making the most of every learning opportunity that comes their way is an attribute that lies at the heart of our pupils' success.

We enhance this quality by teaching them to celebrate every triumph, instilling an appreciation of the powerful role that personal drive plays in getting things done.

# Nurturing Promise



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**ArtsEd offers pupils a unique opportunity. To fully develop their promise as performers and creatives at the same time as enjoying the challenges of a full academic curriculum.**

ArtsEd enjoys a consistent position as the most academically successful performing arts school in the UK. At the heart of this success lies a combination of exceptional pastoral care, expert vocational training and extensive academic curriculum.

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Pupils spend between 25-30% of their curriculum time studying their chosen Pathway - Acting or Dance. Academic studies take up the remainder of the timetable with everyone enjoying lessons in English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Music, French and Art as well as following the Citizenship and PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health, Economic Education) programme.

# Pastoral Care

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**Our pastoral team is dedicated to supporting the well-being and development of each pupil as they progress through the school.**

Tutor groups are a focal point of life at ArtsEd, meeting at least three times a day. Teachers and pupils spend the time discussing current affairs, planning homework and working through the PSHEE programme. Designed to encourage independence and develop emotional intelligence, PSHEE sessions equip young people with practical skills and knowledge that help them to manage their lives, now and in the future. In Years 10 and 11 this time is also used to discuss Further Education options. Guest speakers are regularly invited to come in and talk about specialist topics.

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An important aspect of tutor group time is the opportunity for pupils to talk through their day with a teacher. Challenges and opportunities, big and small, are discussed as and when they arise, and time is taken to think how to approach them. The supportive nature of these sessions inspires friendships amongst the pupils, as well as warm and constructive relationships between teachers and pupils.

Small class sizes in every subject mean high levels of attention and teacher input for all pupils and ability levels, enabling confidence and enthusiasm to thrive right across the curriculum.

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“I’ve been really impressed with the pastoral care here, and the guidance the pupils have been given around e-security and how to stay safe online. The teachers are great at keeping us updated on any challenges our young people might be facing.”

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[Year 8 Parent](#)



# Vocat Curric

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Expert tutors with a whole range of industry experience, encourage and support pupils to realise their full potential in Dance, Drama and Music. Pupils develop their individual talents as well as gaining essential collaboration skills through ensemble work, emerging as self-assured and poised performers.

# Dance

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**Our Dance Tutors combine teaching expertise with extensive performing experience.**

**This combination ensures that pupils not only master the techniques of their chosen art-form but are also encouraged to develop their versatility and individuality.**

Classical Ballet sits at the heart of our Dance course, enhanced with classes in Modern, Tap, Contemporary and Choreography in Years 7 and 8. GCSE Dance is introduced in Year 9, and in Year 10 the course is expanded further to include Jazz.

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Pupils take Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) and Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance (ISTD) exams. In addition to acquiring the skills required for each dance form, they are encouraged to develop their analytical skills and to use dance terminology with confidence.

Every year there are opportunities to perform in large-scale productions, including our annual Dance Show, the Evening of Dance, and the Choreographic Platform.

Regular theatre visits inspire pupils' performances, encouraging them to see their training within the context of the professional dance world.

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## ArtsEd Youth Dance Company

ArtsEd Youth Dance Company is an extra-curricular class for dancers in years 10 to 13. Entry is by audition and participants experience the excitement and challenges of performing as a member of a contemporary dance company. Pupils learn repertoire and work with guest choreographers to prepare for performances at prestigious venues.

Recent venues have included the Royal Albert Hall, The Place, Richmond Dance Festival and the ISA Dance festival.







# Drama

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**Our Drama Course is creatively fulfilling and intellectually demanding. Pupils develop their individual performance skills alongside invaluable literacy and communication skills. At the same time, they broaden their knowledge of culture and society and their understanding of successful teamwork.**

In Year 9, pupils start working towards their GCSE, building on the many disciplines developed in Years 7 and 8.

They experiment with physical and expressionistic theatre, stylised and abstract work, naturalism, comedy, musical theatre, text and off-text work, as well as devising and creating their own pieces. The course is a well balanced combination of practical elements and written work.

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## Opportunities to Perform

At ArtsEd we offer our students a variety of exciting performance opportunities.

These vary from pantomimes, visiting schools, performing in Theatre in Education projects and competing in Drama competitions, including the ISA Drama Festival.

The most exciting opportunity for the Day School pupils has to be the Drama Showcase where everyone from Year 7 – 10 performs in the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre. The Showcase is an exciting evening of devised work, scripted pieces and ensemble work, as well as monologues and duologues.



# Music

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**All our pupils engage in a wide variety of musical activities that enrich their creativity. Our highly experienced teachers develop each pupil's passion for music by nurturing talent and fostering individuality.**

Pupils are encouraged to explore a range of musical styles whilst regular workshops and performance opportunities inspire them to develop their technique and extend their repertoire. Music Theory lessons provide a solid foundation that allows composition skills to flourish. Singing, percussion and keyboards are all used alongside digital technology, including Apple Macs with full access to Logic Pro X and Sibelius.

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Additional vocal and instrumental tuition is provided by our pool of talented professional musicians who delight in sharing their passion and expertise. Pupils benefit hugely from the opportunity to work on a one-to-one basis and these weekly lessons are highly subscribed.

All pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 sing as part of a choir, as do pupils who choose to study GCSE Music. Performances from the choirs are a highlight of our annual Music Concert. Other performance opportunities include the acoustic 'Live Lounge'.







“Employers are looking for good people skills, the ability to work as a team and to present themselves confidently. This is why arts subjects are so important - they give children the skills they need to succeed later on in life.”



Parent

# Visual Arts

**Our Visual Arts department encourages experimentation, inventiveness and ambition. Pupils explore a broad range of approaches and working practices and are encouraged to be creatively bold. In Years 7 and 8, pupils enjoy an art lesson every week, equipping them with the knowledge and enthusiasm to choose a specialism for GCSE from our offer of Art & Design, Fine Art, Photography or GCSE Film Studies.**

## Art & Design

Drawing, painting and printmaking form the foundation of the Art & Design GCSE. Pupils are challenged to consider the inspiration and context behind their own work, at the same time as developing their creative practice.

## Photography

During their GCSE studies, pupils respond to a set theme, exploring portraiture and landscape work and developing their knowledge of composition alongside their technical skills.

## Film Studies

GCSE Film Studies offers a thorough grounding in the theory of film as well as giving pupils the opportunity to showcase a variety of skills in the production of their own short films. Pupils enjoy exploring a diverse range of critically acclaimed films on a course that is creative, practical and inspiring.







# Acade Curric

# Academic Curriculum

Our academic curriculum is rich and varied. Expert teachers create a nurturing and stimulating learning environment, developing a growth mindset which engages students academically, intellectually and creatively.

# Maths

**Our aim is for each pupil to be engaged and enthused in every maths lesson. We do this by identifying and addressing the individual needs of each pupil and streaming from year 7. Maths topics are linked to the everyday, enabling pupils to relate to them as valuable skills for life.**

Many of our pupils have been surprised to find that they have developed a passion for Maths during their time at ArtsEd. We believe this is a result of our unique balance of time between vocational and academic subjects, creating an overall enthusiasm for learning.

# Science

**Our teaching encourages pupils to see how science plays an integral part in their everyday lives. Topics are explored in engaging ways, demonstrating how science explains much of the world around them and the impact that humans have upon it. The curriculum ensures that all pupils are offered the opportunity to achieve success, regardless of whether they go on to study Science.**

Every year, pupils can take part in a major trip that helps to build on their knowledge of the living, material and physical world. In 2018 we visited Florida, including trips to NASA and the Kennedy Space Centre. Other regular outings closer to home include the Science Museum, Natural History Museum, and Holland Park Ecology Centre.



● ●  
“My daughter’s maths grade has really shot up because of the brilliant teaching and small class sizes here.”



Parent



## English

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**English lessons aim to stimulate and enthuse pupils to develop essential analytical and evaluative skills that they can use in their everyday lives. Self-expression, both written and spoken, is enhanced through the study of texts that cover a range of historical, social and cultural contexts, and lively debate and discussion about textual meaning is encouraged.**

The studying of plays alongside literature, from Shakespeare through to modern day texts, teaches pupils how language shapes meaning and acts as a fundamental basis for theatre.

## History

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**Learning how the past has shaped modern Britain, as well looking at major world events in the twentieth century, nurtures pupils curiosity and enthusiasm for history. They are encouraged to develop skills in questioning, analysis and evaluation, all essential to the discipline, and valuable in their development as thoughtful and informed citizens.**

Learning extends beyond the classroom with visits to many local museums and places of historical interest such as Rochester Castle and the Imperial War Museum.



# Geography

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**Geography inspires a lifelong curiosity about the world and its people. Pupils learn about current events, global and local, investigate people, places and resources and study natural and man-made environments.**

Trips to museums, rivers and field study centres are an exciting part of the curriculum. Recent visits have included Swanage, Slapton, and Walton-on-the-Naze.

# French

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**Our aim is simple, to nurture our pupil's confidence in their ability to understand and speak French. We do this by embracing the power of the arts to support everyone's learning.**

French stories, alongside music and drama, are used as an interesting and engaging way to bring French culture and history to life. In Year 7 we assume no prior knowledge of the language and we run residential trips to Paris on a regular basis.

## Co-Curricular Opportunities

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“I am delighted with my son's progress since he's been at ArtsEd. The small class sizes and the creative environment have really helped him thrive.”



Parent

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**We encourage all of our pupils to get involved in activities that extend and complement their daily timetable. There are opportunities every day to take part in clubs and performance groups and we add to and enhance the options every term, building on the enthusiasms of our pupils and the teachers. The following are examples of the regular co-curricular activities that run alongside weekly booster sessions in all academic subjects:**

Acting for Dancers, Dance for Actors, Debate Club, Film Appreciation Club, Junior Musical Theatre Company, Choirs, LGBTQ+ Club, Pupil Council, Samba Club, Science Club, Sports Club, Tap Classes.

# Performance Opportunities

**The academic year at ArtsEd is punctuated with exciting opportunities for pupils to showcase their talents. These include our Open Evenings, the Music Concert, Dance Show, Pupils Showcase and the Prize Giving Ceremony.**

The venue for these is the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre, a delightful proscenium arch theatre, run by our professional, in-house production team using state of the art sound and lighting equipment.

Other productions take place in our fully equipped studio spaces and include the Junior Musical, Evening of Dance, Live Lounge and the Choreographic Platform.

The standard of performances is always outstanding and family and friends are joined in the audience by the wider ArtsEd community, including ArtsEd Friends, neighbours and alumni.

Our Youth Dance Company gives our Dance Pathway students opportunities to perform outside of ArtsEd. Opportunities for our acting and musical theatre students to showcase their talents include the Independent Schools Association Drama Festival, a competition won by pupils from ArtsEd more than once!





## Destinations

Many year 11 pupils choose to continue their studies with ArtsEd, moving up to our internationally renowned Sixth Form. Others secure places at other leading sixth forms and colleges, which have recently included Latymer, Twyford C of E School, Urdang Academy, Northern Ballet School, Tiffin Girls and Kings Wimbledon.

## Governance

**The overall governance of ArtsEd is conducted by the Board of Trustees, chaired by Kevin McGrath.**

The Trustees are informed about day-to-day activities via regular Board and Sub-Committee meetings. The Day School and Sixth Form Governance Sub-Committee meet termly and regularly visit the school to monitor day to day activity, and to attend public productions.

Trustees bring significant, appropriate experience and skills to bear in considering ArtsEd's strategic direction, and by taking part in various Committees as part of their management obligations. A full list of trustees can be found on our website.

# Admissions

## Years 7 to 11

We audition everyone who applies to ArtsEd. Prospective pupils spend a day in the school with the other applicants, allowing them to get a taste of life here at the same time as we get to know them. Our staff are very warm and welcoming and make the day as enjoyable as possible.

We encourage all prospective students to join us for our Open Evening or get in touch about visiting. Seeing our current students in action and talking to our staff is the best way to get a sense of ArtsEd's unique energy.

We have two application deadlines for Year 7 entry in September 2021.

- Monday 14 December 2020  
for auditions in December 2020
- Friday 12 February 2021  
for auditions in February 2021

You can find more information and apply online at [artsed.co.uk](https://artsed.co.uk).

Candidates who are not able to attend audition days due to Covid restrictions may contact Gabriella Duda: [gduda@artsed.co.uk](mailto:gduda@artsed.co.uk) for information regarding online auditions



“My audition day was really exciting. I met some really nice and kind pupils at ArtsEd. The teachers were amazing and made the day feel fun instead of frightening.”



[Year 7 Pupil](#)



# Auditions

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Everyone takes part in:



**Ice-breaking sessions**



**Written tests in English and Maths workshops**



**An interview with a senior member of staff**



**An individual audition**



**Vocational skills workshops**

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## Audition Requirements

We will provide full audition details, including preparation tips, once a prospective pupil is registered. Candidates will need to prepare either a dance or drama audition piece. Pieces must fit the guidelines below.

All candidates will need to prepare a short song.

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### Dance

#### **1 x two-minute dance piece**

Accompaniment can be provided on a mobile phone.

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### Drama

#### **1 x two-minute speech from a play**

The character must be an appropriate playing age.  
Pupils must bring an additional copy of the text for the assessor.

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### Song

#### **1 x short song**

The song must be chosen from the list provided in the application pack.  
Songs can be accompanied by the pianist, on provision of a score

# Shaping the Future

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Our transformational £20m capital project that will ensure ArtsEd retains its position as a provider of world-class performing arts training for many years to come. The first phase of this ten-year project was completed in November 2013 with the opening of the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre, solely supported with a £3.5 million donation from the Foundation.

# Shaping the Future

**Shaping the Future's second phase, the transformation of an empty courtyard area in the heart of our Chiswick home, commenced in summer 2019. This major expansion has created three storeys of new studios, classrooms and rehearsal spaces. We will take possession of this fabulous new building in autumn 2020 and will be fully settled into our extended home by September 2021.**

The Green Roof is the jewel in the crown of this new building. A versatile roof terrace and new drama studio on the top floor with fantastic views over London, this space will be for the exclusive use of Day School & Sixth Form students. The whole school is already looking forward to the opportunities that this new outdoor space will bring to everyday life at ArtsEd.

Fundraising is currently underway for the third and final phase of Shaping the Future, the ArtsEd Playhouse. This new theatre will perfectly complement the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre, replacing our old Studio Theatre and enable students to hone their skills in an intimate and flexible performance space.

Shaping the Future embodies our commitment to ensuring that the standard of our training facilities matches the talent of our students and the exceptional quality of our teaching.





“This ambitious capital project comes at a pivotal moment for ArtsEd as it celebrates 100 years of nurturing young talent. The School is a leading contributor to the UK’s creative industries, internationally renowned for providing outstanding and contemporary training in the performing arts. Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has been a long-term supporter of ArtsEd, including providing financial scholarships for talented young people from diverse backgrounds who have gone on to successful careers in the industry. I am immensely proud to be the founding supporter of Shaping the Future, a project that will ensure ArtsEd remains a centre of excellence for many years to come.”



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**Andrew Lloyd Webber**  
President





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If you have any questions, please  
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.....  
You can also find out more at  
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The school's prospectus and website describe the broad principles on which the school operates and gives an indication of its history and ethos. Although believed correct at the time of publication, the prospectus and website are not part of any agreement between the parents and the school. If the parents wish to place specific reliance on a matter contained in the prospectus, website, or a statement made by a member of staff or a student during the course of a visit to the school or during a meeting relating to an application for a place, they should seek written confirmation of that matter before entering into this agreement.

