

A photograph of two young men sitting outdoors, laughing heartily. They are wearing dark grey t-shirts with a small blue 'ArtsEd' logo on the chest. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a fence.

Day School Prospectus 2021/22

ArtsEd

**'Excellent' in all categories
Independent Schools Inspectorate**

Welcome



Claire Parker-Wood

Interim Headteacher

ArtsEd is a special place; a school where pupils are engaged in excellent academic study whilst pursuing and developing their passion for performance. I am delighted to be leading our expert staff team and outstanding pupils for the autumn term, before Matthew Bulmer, our new Headteacher, joins us in January 2022.

I am immensely proud of everything that we have achieved here over the last eighteen months, during a period that was enormously challenging for pupils, parents, and teachers. I look forward to taking the school community forward, building on our outstanding Independent Schools Inspection outcome, our excellent examination results, and our welcoming ethos.

I am particularly proud of the nurturing pastoral care that is such a core part of our offer, an essential element in the development of our pupils' self-confidence and the fostering of an environment that supports and encourages everyone in all their endeavours.

If you were able to join us for our Open Evening, then I do hope it gave you a flavour of the unique energy of the school. If you weren't, then please do book a tour. Now that we are able, we can't wait to greet you in-person again!





Matthew Bulmer

Headteacher

Designate (January
2022)

It is with great pleasure and pride that I write here as the new Headteacher of ArtsEd, and I cannot wait to get started properly in January.

Founded over 100 years ago, ArtsEd's ethos remains much the same: to provide a broad and balanced education, stretching pupils to achieve their academic, artistic, and personal potential. 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.

This prospectus provides an essential overview of the unique and outstanding ArtsEd education available to your children but to best get a sense of what to expect, please come and visit us in person. Spending just an hour at our Chiswick home will quickly convey the energy, engagement, and positivity that is at the heart of the ArtsEd experience.

ArtsEd is an independent day school like no other; an international leader in Performing Arts education and a local and national leader in its wider academic provision. Our students achieve value added scores in the top 1% nationally, which means that all our pupils reach their academic potential, achieved through a programme of teaching and learning that is tailored to each individual. ArtsEd pupils benefit from a high-quality vocational programme delivered by committed and creative professionals, and their expertise instils in our pupils a passion for performance that feeds into all aspects of their education and personal development. Our students spend time every day doing what they love, which means that they grow and develop into happy, collaborative, and well-rounded individuals, fully committed to holistic education and, at 16+, armed with a set of skills and experiences that prepare them for whatever pathway they choose to follow.

ArtsEd Day School pupils are remarkable individuals, and we pride ourselves on knowing, nurturing and respecting them as such. The school's outstanding pastoral systems, small class sizes, and family atmosphere mean that every young person feels valued, supported, and encouraged to be the very best they can be. I look forward to welcoming you to the school soon.

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, inspires pupils' confidence, curiosity and commitment to all 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



“ArtsEd is the most amazing school! 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!”

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 for over 100 years.



Resilience

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

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 stay focused in the face of challenges or disappointment.



Teamwork

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

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”

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”**

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. We champion inclusivity, encourage courtesy, and embrace enthusiasm for learning.



Drive

“Your only limit is you”

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



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.

Pupils spend between 25-30% of their curriculum time studying their chosen Pathway - Acting or Dance. In Year 9, pupils may audition to join our new Key Stage 4 Musical Theatre Pathway.

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

Our pastoral team is dedicated to supporting the wellbeing 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.

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 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, Musical Theatre, 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

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.

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.

ArtsEd Junior Dance Company

ArtsEd Junior Dance Company is an extra-curricular class for dancers in Years 9 to 11. Entry is by audition, and participants experience the excitement of performing as a member of a

versatile dance company. Pupils learn repertoire and work in varying dance genres, sometimes with guest choreographers. Throughout the year, pupils take part in company classes and prepare for internal and external performance opportunities.







Drama

Our Drama course is creatively fulfilling and intellectually demanding. Pupils develop their individual performance techniques 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.

The course is broad and diverse, experimenting with a variety of performance styles, from physical and expressionistic theatre, stylised and abstract work, naturalism, comedy, evaluating live 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.

Opportunities to Perform

At ArtsEd we offer our students a variety of exciting performance opportunities. These vary from pantomimes, school visits, 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 Years 7 – 10 perform 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.



Musical Theatre

Musical Theatre at ArtsEd gives pupils the opportunity to develop skills in singing, dance, and acting alongside a GCSE in either dance or drama. Our tutors have professional industry experience as performers, directors and vocal coaches and have crafted a programme designed to stretch each pupil to their full potential.

Pupils opting to specialise in Musical Theatre will take classes in singing technique, singing ensemble, ballet, jazz, tap, and acting as well as performance workshops combining all three disciplines. Musical Theatre is a wide-reaching and rapidly developing art form, and we pride ourselves on being at the

forefront of this exciting industry. The course is designed to prepare pupils for post-16 study in the genre as well as celebrating and nurturing their creativity and individuality. There will be opportunities to perform in the school's Music Concert, Dance Show, and Drama Showcase, as well as in the Junior Musical Theatre production. Musical Theatre pupils will also be entered into Trinity College of Music group musical theatre exams as part of their training. Entry is by audition into year 9 and we are particularly looking for performance quality and potential across the three disciplines.



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Music

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.

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 and 8 sing as part of a choir, as do pupils who choose to study GCSE Music. Choir is an option for those in Years 9 to 11 who wish to participate. 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 movies. 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.

Pupils can take part in trips that help to build on their knowledge of the living, material, and physical world. Previous excursions have included Florida, with visits 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.





English

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 study 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

Learning how the past has shaped modern Britain, as well looking at major world events in the twentieth century, nurtures curiosity and enthusiasm for history. Pupils 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.

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

● ●

Parent



Modern Foreign Languages

Our core aim is simple: to nurture our pupils' confidence in their ability to understand, speak, and write French. We do this by embracing the power of the French cultural heritage to support everyone's learning.

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

The BONUS Programme is available to pupils with good oral ability in French, Spanish, or Russian who wish to improve their writing skills. Language clubs are also available.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

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, Junior Dance Company, Junior Acting Company, Choirs, LGBTQ+ Club, Pupil Council, Samba Club, Science Club, Sports Club, and Tap Classes.

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.

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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



Performance Opportunities

The academic year at ArtsEd is punctuated with exciting opportunities for pupils to showcase their performing talents. These include our Open Evenings, the Music Concert, Dance Show, Drama 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, Devised Drama performances, and the Choreographic Platform.

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

Our Dance, Theatre, and Musical Theatre Companies give 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 leading sixth forms and colleges, which have recently included Latymer, Twyford C of E School, Urdang Academy, Northern Ballet School, Kings Wimbledon, and Hurtwood House.

Governance

The overall governance of ArtsEd is conducted by the Board of Trustees, chaired by Mark Burch.

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 for a tour. 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 2022.

→ 30 November for auditions in December 2021

→ 31 January for auditions in February 2022

You can find more information and apply online at artsed.co.uk.



“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

Everyone takes part in:



Ice-breaking sessions



Written tests in English and Maths



An interview with a senior member of staff



An individual audition



Vocational skills workshops

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.

Dance

1 x two-minute dance piece

Accompaniment can be provided on a mobile phone.

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.

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

Shaping the Future is 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 long-term project saw the opening of the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre in 2013. Work on the second phase started in summer 2019 and in October last year we moved into our beautiful new courtyard building.

This major expansion in the heart of our Chiswick home has created three storeys of professionally specced studios, classrooms and rehearsal spaces. Crowning it all is the Green Roof, a wonderful roof terrace with fantastic views over London. This space is for the exclusive use of Day School & Sixth Form pupils, and 2021/22 will see it transformed into an even more versatile area, using funds raised by our parent community and supporters.

Fundraising is currently underway for the third and final phase of Shaping the Future, the ArtsEd Playhouse. This new performance space will perfectly complement the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre, enabling 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 facilities matches the talents of our students and the exceptional quality of our teaching.





“This ambitious capital project comes at a pivotal moment for ArtsEd as it celebrates over 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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.....
You can also find out more at
artsed.co.uk
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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.

