ARTS EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS
Curriculum Policy (Sixth Form)

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CURRICULUM POLICY (SIXTH FORM)

A. STATEMENT OF INTENT

1. ArtsEd Sixth Form is a specialist vocational performing arts school committed to developing students' talents to the highest possible standard, both academically and vocationally. We place equal importance on both aspects of our provision and aspire to nurture highly qualified, thoughtful, intellectually curious and engaged young people. Through excellent academic study and professional-level vocational training, students are equipped to pursue higher education, conservatoire training, employment, or other aspirational pathways.

2. The following information relates to the Curriculum Offer for 2026-2027. As a Sixth Form, we regularly review and enhance our provision in response to students' interests, aspirations and needs. Consequently, the curriculum offered in future years may differ from that outlined below. All subject content is designed to be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and needs of our students, including those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

3. Twice each year, the normal timetable is suspended to deliver a dedicated Culture and Careers Programme across the Day School and Sixth Form. Students participate in a range of bespoke activities designed to promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development while exploring future education, employment and training pathways.

B. Our Curriculum at Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13)

4. The ArtsEd Sixth Form curriculum provides students with an inspiring and challenging education that combines academic excellence with specialist training in the creative and performing arts. We build upon and refine the knowledge and skills students bring from GCSE study while offering high-level vocational training. The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of all learners.

5. We expect students to engage fully in their education and provide them with a strong academic and vocational foundation from which they can develop independent study and career pathways. Our students are equally likely to progress to university, conservatoire training or direct employment within the creative industries. Consequently, we offer a curriculum that is both academically rigorous and vocationally demanding.

6. We aspire to nurture students who are intellectually curious, engaged in learning, and confident in developing informed and independent ideas. Staff regularly collaborate across subject areas, enabling them to create meaningful cross-curricular connections that enrich students' understanding. We encourage students to view their studies as part of a wider cultural and intellectual landscape and actively promote engagement with plays, dance performances, musical theatre, exhibitions, lectures and panel discussions wherever possible.

7. Our academic and vocational pathways are underpinned by the ArtsEd Pillars, a strong pastoral programme, and comprehensive PSHE and RSE provision. Together, these aim to empower students to become confident, resilient and responsible individuals, equipped with the interpersonal, reflective and critical thinking skills required to thrive in higher education, employment and the wider community.

8. We expect students to demonstrate passion, commitment and professionalism in their engagement with the creative and performing arts. Students may choose to follow either the A level pathway or the Level 3 BTEC Performing Arts Practice pathway in Musical Theatre, Acting or Dance with one additional A level.

9. Students in Years 12 and 13 may, on occasion, work independently, for example when rehearsing devised performance work, developing choreography or undertaking private study. In all circumstances, students are aware of how to access support and can readily contact a member of staff if required.

A level Subjects Offered

The subjects currently offered at A level are:

- Art
- Dance
- Drama
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- History
- Mathematics
- Photography
- Politics

C. A Level Pathway

10. Students who choose this pathway study three or four A level subjects. The majority of students choose either Dance or Drama as one of their options. Students are encouraged to select subjects that provide a balanced programme of study. All students are required to study a minimum of three A levels in Year 13. Students on the A level pathway also participate in weekly skills classes and project workshop sessions.

D. Level 3 BTEC Performing Arts Practice (Dance, Acting or Musical Theatre)

11. The Level 3 BTEC Performing Arts Practice is a two-year programme that, upon successful completion, provides students with a qualification equivalent to three A levels. BTEC qualifications are designed to equip students with the practical skills, knowledge

and professional understanding required for progression to university, drama school or employment within the performing arts industry.

12. Learning within each pathway is project-based, enabling students to develop their skills while working collaboratively as part of a company. Assessment reflects professional industry practice and is varied in nature. Students undertake classes in Acting, Dance and Singing and complete a range of assignments that may include practical performances, research projects, rehearsal logs, video evidence and reflective blogs. These elements contribute to a portfolio of evidence that determines the final qualification grade.

13. The BTEC programmes at ArtsEd provide an exciting opportunity for students to train in a professional vocational environment while benefiting from the academic and practical support for which the school is renowned. Students develop as well-rounded practitioners with the confidence, skills and knowledge required for successful progression. Upon completion of the programme, students are well prepared for university, conservatoire training or employment within the creative industries. There may also be an opportunity for students to study one additional A Level alongside their programme.

14. A one-off registration fee of approximately £250 is payable for students undertaking the BTEC Extended Diploma.

E. Enrichment Programme

Two Classes Per Week

15. In addition to examined courses, the school offers a broad enrichment programme designed to extend students' experiences, interests and skills. During timetabled enrichment sessions, students may select from a variety of activities. Previous opportunities have included Yoga, the ArtsEd Musical Theatre Company, ArtsEd Theatre Company, Acting for Screen, Script Reading, Silent Study, Art Club, Stage Combat, Musical Theatre Club, Acting Society, Physical Theatre, Show Choir, and Open Dance classes in ballet, jazz, commercial and contemporary styles. These non-examined classes provide valuable opportunities for students to broaden their creative experiences and explore disciplines they may not otherwise encounter.

F. GCSE Resits

16. Students who do not achieve a Grade 4 or above in GCSE English and/or Mathematics are strongly encouraged to attend resit classes and retake the relevant examination during the following summer examination series. Wherever possible, these lessons are scheduled during independent study periods. However, students may occasionally be required to attend sessions during designated enrichment periods. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning, seek support from teachers where needed and engage positively with the resit process.

G. Additional Enrichment Opportunities

17. A range of additional enrichment opportunities may be available outside the timetabled curriculum, and students are encouraged to register their interest in these activities.

18. ISTD Modern and Tap classes (lunchtime provision)

19. Peripatetic music tuition in instrumental and/or vocal studies (additional fees apply)

20. Language BONUS Programme

21. The PSHE and RSE programme is designed to develop students' critical thinking, self-awareness and personal understanding while providing high-quality relationships and sex education, effective study skills and guidance regarding future pathways. The programme also offers comprehensive support for higher education applications, enabling students to make informed and aspirational decisions about their next steps.

H. What Would Students Study at ArtsEd?

22. A detailed breakdown of the curriculum offer is provided in the tables below.

23. In the tables below, contact time refers to one-hour lessons.

24. Due to the dynamic nature of the school and our commitment to curriculum development and continuous improvement, minor adjustments to the timetable may be made from year to year. Any significant changes will be communicated to parents and carers in advance via email and/or letter.

I. KEY STAGE 5 Pathways

25. Three or Four A level pathway

Subject	**Year 12** **Number of lessons**	**Year 13** **Number of lessons**
A level 1	5.5	5.5
A level 2	5.5	5.5
A level 3	5.5	5.5
A level 4 (optional)	5.5	5.5
Enrichment	2	2
A level Skills/Project Workshop Class	5	5
PSHE	1	1
Total	30x 1hour session (30 hours)	30x 1hour session (30 hours)

26. BTEC Acting Pathway

Subject		Year 12 Number of lessons	Year 13 Number of lessons
BTEC Acting		16	16
Year 12 Units B4: Exploring Performance Styles B5: Creating Performance Material B6: Performing as an Actor for an Audience F16: Planning a Career in the Industry	**Year 13 Units** G17: Using Development Plans to Refine Skills G18: Producing a Personal Project G19: Using material for Self-Promotion and Marketing H20: Undertaking a defined creative or administrative role H21: Using creative collaboration to help develop a project H22: Producing a collaborative project		
Year 12 Skills examples Voice Acting for Camera Improvisation Yoga Devising Industry workshops Principles of Acting	**Year 13 Skills examples** Voice Audio Acting for Camera Mentor Yoga Singing Dance Audition workshops and prep Industry workshops		
A Level 1 (optional)		5.5	5.5
Enrichment		2	2
PSHE		1	1
Free Study Periods		5.5	5.5
Total		30 x 1hour classes (30Hours).	30 x 1hour classes (30Hours).

27. BTEC Musical Theatre Pathway

Subject		Year 12 Number of lessons	Year 13 Number of lessons
BTEC Musical Theatre		16	16
Year 12 Units D10: Exploring Performance Styles D11: Creating Performance Material D12: Performing Musical Theatre for an Audience F16: Planning a Career in the Industry	**Year 13 Units** G17: Using Development Plans to Refine Skills G18: Producing a Personal Project G19: Using material for Self Promotion and Marketing H20: Undertaking a defined creative or administrative role		

	H21: Using creative collaboration to help develop a project H22: Producing a collaborative project		
Year 12 Skills examples Ballet Jazz Tap Acting Ensemble Rep Peri 1:1 singing	**Year 13 Skills examples** Ballet Jazz Tap Acting Ensemble Rep Mentor Peri 1:1 singing Audition prep Dance workshop auditions		
A Level 1 (optional)		5.5	5.5
Enrichment		2	2
PSHE		1	1
Free Study Periods		5.5	5.5
Total		30 x 1hour classes (30Hours).	30 x 1hour classes (30Hours).

27. **BTEC Dance Pathway**

Subject		**Year 12 Number of lessons**	**Year 13 Number of lessons**
BTEC Dance		16	16
Year 12 Units C7: Exploring Performance Styles C8: Creating Performance Material C9: Performing as a Dancer as part of an Ensemble F16: Planning a Career in the Industry	**Year 13 Units** G17: Using Development Plans to Refine Skills G18: Producing a Personal Project G19: Using material for Self Promotion and Marketing H20: Undertaking a defined creative or administrative role H21: Using creative collaboration to help develop a project H22: Producing a collaborative project		
Year 12 Skills examples Ballet Jazz	**Year 13 Skills examples** Ballet Jazz		

Heels Contemporary Commercial Modern PBT Dance Drills Tap Acting Singing	Heels Contemporary Commercial Dance Drills PBT Improv Tap Acting Singing Mentor Audition prep Dance workshop auditions		
A Level 1 (optional)		5.5	5.5
Enrichment		2	2
PSHE		1	1
Free Study Periods		5.5	5.5
Total		30 x 1hour classes (30Hours).	30 x 1hour classes (30Hours).

Policy to be circulated to all staff and the Governing Body. This policy will be made available to parents on the website and on request.

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