

Young Dancers Academy – Curriculum Policy

Overview of intent for the Curriculum

Young Dancers Academy **Intends** to:

- Enable students to attain the highest standards in Classical Ballet
- Enable students to develop skills and achieve excellence in Jazz, Tap and Musical Theatre to foster versatile performers
- Prepare students to progress to elite institutions for further training in Classical Ballet/Dance/Musical Theatre and, ultimately, pursue a professional career in dance
- Provide a broad, balanced and enriching academic education, which equips students with the skills, knowledge and qualifications to pursue a different path at 16+ or later in life
- Support lower-ability students, raise the attainment of the middle and provide outstanding challenge to the gifted and talented
- Achieve excellent GCSE and BTEC results in relation to each student's abilities
- Foster a strong work ethic amongst students
- Prepare the students to lead successful and fulfilling lives after education
- Foster a strong sense of curiosity and of understanding about the world
- Develop reflective and self-evaluating habits amongst students.

The curriculum, teaching and learning at Young Dancers Academy will be **Implemented by**:

- Being broad and balanced, while permitting the pursuit of exceptional excellence in dance
- Contributing effectively to the intellectual, physical, personal attainment and development of the students
- Giving students experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, human, social, physical, aesthetic and creative education
- Teaching subject matter appropriate for the ages, gender, backgrounds and aptitudes of students, including those students on the SEND/G&T Registers and those for whom English is not their native language (EAL)
- Enabling students to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy
- Involving well-planned lessons, effective teaching and learning, suitable activities and wise management of classroom and studio time
- Being based on a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainment of all students, and ensure that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons and classes
- Being taught by specialist teachers who are well-qualified for what they teach and with an empathy with the aims and ethos of the school
- Being supported by resources of a suitable quality, quantity and range
- Providing for personal, social and health education which reflects YDA's aims and ethos
- Providing Citizenship education that promotes Fundamental British Values and the aims of the Prevent Strategy
- Providing for appropriate career guidance

The **Impact** of the curriculum and teaching will be to:

- Enable students to acquire new knowledge and make progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught
- Provide students with adequate preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- Offer all students the opportunity to explore and access their full artistic and academic potential
- Foster in students a sense of delight in the life of mind, body and imagination; the application of creative interest in their work; and the ability to think and learn for themselves
- Enable students to make regular and thorough assessment of students' work
- Ensure that effective strategies are in place for managing student behaviour and encouraging responsible behaviour
- Being subject to on-going evaluation and review by the Executive Director, Artistic Director, Academic Director, SEND Co-ordinator and others as appropriate.

Vocational Curriculum - Intent

- Young Dancers Academy selects students on the basis of their facility for Classical Ballet. They are assessed on their performance in ballet class at preliminary and final auditions. The auditions take the form of a visual assessment of the student's physical, musical and artistic ability and perceived potential as a performer. The final audition is supplemented by a physiotherapy/general health assessment.

Implementation

- Young Dancers Academy has its own Programme of Study for Classical Ballet which is fully documented and which is followed by the students throughout their time at YDA. (Please see separate policy document.) The emphasis of this programme is to provide students, through intensive and dedicated training, the opportunity to lay the groundwork to become exceptional classical dancers. Throughout the five-year Programme of Study, the intensity and expectation of achievement increases. However, the main aim endorsed by the Artistic Director and all specialist dance staff is to nurture the love and passion for dance in all students, and encourage and develop the freedom and exhilaration of movement aligned with the principals of classical ballet technique.
- Young Dancers Academy also offers a programme of Jazz, Tap and Musical Theatre to help students develop into versatile performers and broaden opportunities for progression at 16+.
- Students are assessed at regular intervals. The assessment procedure is clear and fair. Assessment policies and procedures are available to all students. (Please see separate policy document.)
- Vocational classes take place each day, with approximately 14-20 hours of vocational training per week: approximately 3 hours each day, Monday to Saturday, and occasional Sunday rehearsals. Under normal circumstances, Year 7 students do not attend Saturday classes.

	Curriculum
Year 7	Classical Ballet, Pointe Work (girls), Jazz, Tap, Musical Theatre, Body Conditioning, Choreography
Year 8	Classical Ballet, Pointe Work (girls), Jazz, Musical Theatre, Body Conditioning, Choreography
Year 9	Classical Ballet, Pointe Work (girls), Jazz, Musical Theatre, Body Conditioning, Choreography
Years 10-11	Classical Ballet, Pointe Work (girls), Jazz, Contemporary, BTEC Performing Arts

Impact

- In Years 7, 8 and 9, all students work towards Musical Theatre grades, each year group rehearsing and performing as an ensemble. In Years 10 and 11, students work towards a BTEC in Performing Arts, showcasing their dance skills in a range of performances, including a classical solo showcase.
- All students are able to demonstrate progress and hone performance skills through participation in audition, rehearsal and performance of the annual productions of *The Nutcracker* and the Summer Show, both performed to the public at West End Theatres.
- Additionally, all students participate in the annual Du Boisson Dance Foundation Choreography Competition, which takes place in a West End Theatre towards the end of the summer term and encourages creative and intellectual engagement with the wider dance world as well as the development of organisation and leadership skills.

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