



Arabesque School of Performing Arts

Prospectus

introduction

Arabesque School of Performing Arts has been established as a part time school since 1992. The principal, Cynthia Ryder opened the school following her training at the Italia Conti Theatre Academy and the Merseyside College of Dance and Drama. The school opened with only 15 pupils who attended classes in various church and village halls. The school moved to its own premises in 1994. It very soon became clear that the school had outgrown these premises as it grew to some 200 pupils. Easter 1999 saw the part time school move to its current location and the school now boasts some 450 pupils.

Following such success, opening a full time stage school seemed to be a natural progression; and in September 2005 Arabesque expanded to the ground floor of the current premises to accommodate the full time school which opened in September 2006

Since the school opened it has enjoyed fantastic examination results both academically and vocationally. It boasts a 100% pass rate A to C at GCSE, with many students gaining A's in many core subjects. Students have also have gained exceptional grades in ISTD modern, tap and ballet examinations (98% of students gained a grade A) LAMDA Acting examinations have also been achieved with 97% of the students gaining distinction.



Children are encouraged to audition for and to take on professional work whilst at the school. Students who have worked have been cast in such productions as Tracey Beaker on the BBC, Billy Elliott, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang in the West End and UK tour. Students also perform in local Pantomimes and have also taken leading roles at the Chichester Festival Theatre.

On leaving Arabesque, following their GCSE examinations, many of our students have been accepted on performing arts courses at such prestigious establishments as Laban, Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, Body Works, Italia Conti, Laine Theatre Arts, Performers college, Doreen Bird, Stella Mann and, D and B Performing Arts. Students who have chosen to go on and do A levels before applying for performing Arts courses have gone on to such schools as Portsmouth Grammar, Havant College, and St Phillip Howard.

At Arabesque we feel that there is a need for talented, children to develop in a creative environment in order that they may reach their full potential, both academically and vocationally. Whilst the emphasis is on performing arts, a great deal of importance is placed on the students academic studies. The Performing Arts Industry is a tough one and the children need to be prepared to face all eventualities. We believe that it

is very important that they have a good academic education behind them, as well as being trained to the highest standard for the industry. Because of the nature of the school the numbers will always be small, making it a relaxed family-like atmosphere, where everyone is important. Our excellent teacher/pupil ratio means that we can give each individual child the attention they deserve, so that they can achieve their best in all subjects.

We aim to:

- Provide a unique educational opportunity for pupils who show talent in one or more of the performing arts.
- Ensure that pupils fulfil their potential both academically and vocationally.
- Provide motivation and self-discipline throughout the pupils' schooling, whilst achieving a sound academic education to a high standard.
- Provide a happy, friendly, disciplined and focused school where these aims can be achieved.

premises

The premises are newly refurbished and include 3 large fully fitted dance studios, with sprung floors, girls and boys changing rooms. There are 5 classrooms, including a fully equipped IT suite.

There is also a reception area, a student common

room and a large costume store which the students have access to for their performances. There is an outside area with picnic tables where students can have recreational time and this is encouraged at lunch and break times. Also on the premises is our onsite dancewear shop, Tinkerbell Dancewear. All uniform items may be purchased from here.



Arabesque School of Performing Arts is situated in Quarry Lane, which is on the outskirts of Chichester, It lies just off the A27 making it easily accessible by car . Chichester train station is also close by, being only a short walk away.

The students regularly participate in public performances at local venues including "The Showroom" at the Bishop Otter Campus of Chichester University and also The Alexandra Theatre, Bognor Regis. Students also participate in charity events throughout the year. There are many opportunities to perform.

boarding

Arabesque does not currently offer any boarding facilities, however it may be possible to put parents in touch with host families.



academic studies

At Arabesque, we take the Children's academic education very seriously. We feel that each child should be encouraged to reach their full potential in every subject.

It is very important for any child, no matter how talented, to have a good general education behind them.

the curriculum

The school broadly follows the national curriculum. Different teaching and learning skills are used, in order that each student achieves the greatest possible success and enjoys their lessons.



Often cross curricular studies are used. Teachers work together to reinforce the curriculum across the timetable.

The timetable is divided equally between vocational and academic subjects.

Academic subjects include:

English Language, English Literature, History, Dance, Mathematics, Drama, French, Music, IT/Business studies, Science, PSHE, Art and Geography

Whilst Vocational subjects include:

Ballet, Modern Theatre, Tap, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Pas de deux, Singing, Drama, Audition technique, Script work, Improvisation and Voice technique

In years 7, 8 and 9, the children will receive a good background knowledge in all subjects, preparing them for further study at GCSE level. In years 10 and 11 the students work towards AQA GCSE examinations. Due to the nature of the school all students study the same subjects, these include English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, French, Humanities, Business and Communications, Dance, Drama and Music. There



may also be an option to take Art and Design and Performing Arts.

assessment and reporting

Assessment at Arabesque supports individual pupils in the achievement of his or her full learning potential and fosters the development of self esteem and personal responsibility. This takes place with the involvement of staff, pupils and parents.

We recognizes that assessment does not need to be in the form of formal examinations but can be a progression within the school maximizing the potential of each individual pupil.



Assessment is the obtaining, analyzing and interpreting evidence for use by both pupils and teachers to enable the review, planning and improvement of learning. It is fully integrated with the delivery of the curriculum and is an essential component of classroom practice.

Consistent record keeping by all teachers allows the effective monitoring of pupil progress and the regular evaluation of teaching content/styles/methods

Parents receive an interim report once a year, giving an effort and attainment grade for each subject. They also receive a full written report about their Child's progress once a year. Parent consultation evenings take place annually for each year group, where Parents will have the opportunity to meet all tutors.

Parents are also encouraged to have regular contact with the teachers throughout the term should they have any concerns regarding their son/daughter's progress. Appointments can also be made with the Principal at any time. Communication between the school and parents is the key to a good school/home relationship.

All students, where possible will be encouraged to take dance, drama and music GCSE early. This will also be the case should a student show a particular talent in any subject. This will only be encouraged if the student is able to reach maximum potential early. Taking some GCSEs early helps reduce the exam pressure in the final term of Year 11, giving them more time to concentrate on each examination, so they can achieve their best results.



It also allows them a little more time to prepare for auditions for vocational colleges or interviews for sixth form which also take place in this final term.

homework

Homework is an important part of every student's learning experience and helps them to make progress, and reinforce work studied in class. It provides students with the experience of working by themselves to consolidate or extend work covered in school. It also establishes and develops good study habits, time management, self-discipline, commitment and perseverance which are so valuable in the future of life long learning and adaptability. Homework must be viewed as important by staff, students and parents / carers.

vocational studies

All pupils will receive a full vocational training at the very highest standard. The performing world is a very competitive one therefore, it is important that every child is trained in a very broad spectrum of vocational subjects. The more skills the child has, the more job opportunities there will be in the future. Our aim is to provide a unique opportunity for students with potential in the Performing Arts to train and to perfect their skills.

The vocational curriculum offered is designed to:

- Enable students to develop skill and confidence in their talents
- Instil the importance of self-discipline and a strong work ethic in achieving success
- Prepare students to progress to further vocational training in the performing arts
- Prepare students for the possibility of professional opportunities in the Performing Arts once they have finished their studies.



The vocational curriculum is divided into three sections: Dance, Drama and Singing.

dance curriculum

Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary dance, Choreography, Musical Theatre and Double work.

Students are grouped by ability for these lessons allowing them to progress at their own pace. They work towards examinations in ballet, modern and tap.

We work to the syllabus set by the ISTD (Imperial Society of teachers of Dancing) and RAD (Royal Academy of dance), both of which are internationally recognised examination boards.

drama curriculum

Improvisation, Script Work, Mime, Speech, Voice Production, Stagecraft, Audition Technique and Musical Theatre.

Students work together Within their year groups. Private lessons can also be arranged. This is useful if students are preparing for a particular performance or an audition. Students are also encouraged to prepare for the Lamda (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) examinations in Verse and Prose and Acting, which take place annually.



GCSE Drama is also part of the curriculum.

singing curriculum

Vocal Technique, Performance, Harmonies and part Singing. Solo and Group work and aural development. Students have singing as a group weekly. Private lessons are also available.

assessment

Twice a year every student prepares an Audition for the Principal. The students are also assessed and graded on

their performance in Dance, Drama and Singing. They receive a full written report with points to improve on.

performance

Students will have many opportunities to perform throughout their time at the school. There is a showcase of their work at the end of the autumn and spring term. At the end of the summer term students perform in their end of year production. All these performances are in a professional theatre which is invaluable experience.

Students also join forces with the part time school in their show which also takes place at the end the Summer term. They are encouraged to help the younger children both on and off stage.

Again this is a great opportunity for any students who maybe interested in the teaching aspect.

As well as these in house productions the school often takes part in many charity performances throughout the year.



asparations

(Childrens and Young Persons Agency)

Asparations is our own on site agency and management company.

Whilst it is not compulsory for pupils to join the agency, we do recommend it. The experience that the children gain at auditions, castings and any work that they may get, is invaluable in preparing them for the Performing Arts Industry. On joining the agency it is compulsory to be entered into Spotlight.

This is the actors directory which is published annually and circulated throughout the industry, there is an annual charge for this, as well as the costs that will be incurred for your child's photo. However there is no joining fee for the aspirations agency.

The agency can give no guarantees that your child will get work. The only guarantee we make is to put children forward for castings. Parents are asked only to sign their children up to the agency if they are fully committed to supporting their child. Auditions are often at very short notice, usually in London and Parents must be available in order that their child can attend.

The agency takes 15% commission from any earnings Of artists that it represents. This does not including audition

fees, travel expenses or chaperone fees should they become due. Any artist represented by the agency should acquire permission before attending any open auditions or appearing in amateur productions.

entry requirements

Entry is by audition and interview. Candidates should prepare a short drama monologue or piece of poetry and a song of their choice (preferably to a backing track.)



They will also take part in two short dance classes of ballet and jazz. The candidates academic ability will also be taken into consideration, and thus they should bring their latest school report with them for discussion at the interview stage. As well as a short written piece explaining why they want to come to Arabesque and what their ambitions are.

fees

Fees are due on or before the first day of each term. Please note that any reminders which have been sent out because of late payment will incur a £25 administration charge per reminder.

A £500 deposit is payable on acceptance which is held by the school. This will be reimbursed at the end of the pupils final term.

There is a 10% discount for second and subsequent siblings.

Pupils will be asked to purchase various text books as and when they require them. Private singing and instrument lessons are optional and will incur an extra cost. There may also be additional charges for occasional school trips.

All expenses for examination fees are to be met, and will be invoiced as and when they become due.

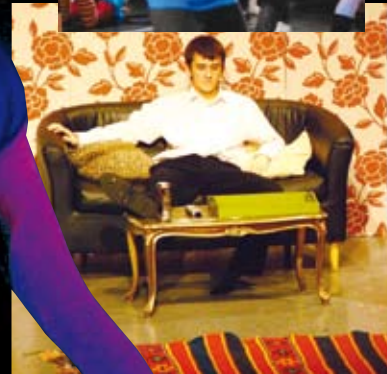
Fees will be reviewed annually and parents will be informed a term in advance of any increases. These will generally be implemented in the Autumn term, however the school reserves the right to increase fees whenever necessary.

To withdraw a pupil one terms notice must be given, failing which a full terms fees will be due.

To contact the principal in term time or holidays please use the following to the right.



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