

# **Italia Academy of Theatre Arts**

## **Curriculum Policy**

### **OVERVIEW**

At Italia Conti we believe that all pupils are entitled to an education that will enable them to develop their full potential, be that intellectual, physical, aesthetic, creative, emotional, spiritual or social; finding appropriate challenge in our learning environment.

All pupils have individual needs, which put personalised learning at the heart of our and learning and teaching. The school is committed to providing an equality of challenge for all pupils and an inspiring education for life.

#### **Values:**

1. vision, values, culture and ethos are shared by the whole School community
2. pupils are happy, secure, confident and valued for their individuality
3. students develop spiritual and moral values, self-discipline, responsibility, resilience and respect for themselves, others and the environment
4. staff are energetic, passionate about their subject and committed to the value of an all-round education
5. a positive and inclusive relationship is nurtured with parents, alumni, and the wider community
6. the school at all times holds true to the promotion of its core ethos and values.

#### **Learning:**

1. pupils achieve their academic potential through outstanding teaching which is forward-looking, encourages independent thinking and lays the foundations for lifelong learning
2. staff continue to develop in their roles through high quality support, guidance and on-going training
3. first-rate facilities and an inspirational learning environment support the philosophy and aims of the School
4. regular and robust self-evaluation and collective review ensures that the whole school is a learning organisation

#### **Interests:**

1. the curriculum is broad and balanced, offering rich and varied opportunities for the development of academic interest and intellectual curiosity.
2. the academic and vocational curriculum offers a wide range of enriching, enjoyable and challenging activities, which stimulate and develop the interests of each pupil, and promote a healthy lifestyle

In doing so, Italia Conti continues to be recognised as one of the country's finest performing arts schools.

The school is committed to providing a rigorous vocational, academic and intellectual education which will challenge and engage pupils, offer continuity and progression of learning to foster a life-long love of learning for its own sake and provide them with a secure foundation on which to continue to learn and into the careers of their choice.

All pupils of compulsory school age receive a full-time supervised education. This education is intended to give pupils experience in vocational, linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative aspects of the curriculum.

The core curriculum of subjects provides the opportunity for pupils to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy. These are further developed in their other subjects. Pupils are taught 40 periods per week (40 minute periods for academic subjects and 60/90 minutes for vocational subjects).

All pupils study a core curriculum of Mathematics, English, Science and a Modern Language from Year 7. Quite deliberately, the school chooses to maintain a broad academic curriculum to support pupil progression to GCSE level. There are no predetermined "Option Bands" as our pupils join the school with a clear vocational pathway. The School however, always aims to run any course where there is sufficient demand.

All curriculum subject matter is appropriate for the age and aptitudes of the pupils in each school year, including any pupils with a statement of special needs/ disability whose needs are reviewed annually. Our curriculum provision enables all pupils to have the opportunity to learn and make progress including those with educational special needs. Every opportunity, for all pupils, is provided to enable pupils to develop their speaking, listening, Literacy and Numeracy skills, as set out in the schemes of work for each curriculum area.

The curriculum provides for the teaching of PSHCE which is taught to class groups as a timetabled discrete subject, working concurrently with the PSHCE policy and schemes of work where further details can be found. The PSHCE curriculum reflects the schools' aims and ethos. The documents work and should be read in conjunction with one another, along with Teaching and Learning, Special Educational Needs/Disabilities, promoting British Values and the provision for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education.

This policy is available to parents and prospective parents on request from the School office and accessible on the School website.

## **School Procedure**

### **Year 7 and 8**

In Years 7 and 8, all pupils receive a broad introductory curriculum which gives them experience in all of the aspects outlined above. In addition to Mathematics, English,

Science and Spanish they study History, Religious Studies, Art, Singing, Acting, Music Theatre, Ballet, Tap, Modern, Jazz Technique, LAMDA, Lyrical, Commercial Dance and have one tutorial lesson. From September 2015 all pupils are offered the chance to explore a range of disciplines including citizenship, study skills and introduction to Google in Education.

### **Year 9**

From Year 9 an element of choice is introduced to enable pupils to explore those subjects more fully. In Year 9, all pupils study the core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, History, Religious Studies, Spanish, Art, Singing, Music Theatre, Acting, LAMDA, Ballet, Tap Modern, Jazz, Commercial Dance, Jazz Techniques. Science will be taught as a double subject from 2016. This curriculum is further enhanced by the introduction of GCSE Drama.

### **Year 10 and 11**

In Year 10 and 11, the core curriculum is English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science along with Spanish, History, Art, Drama and Dance. Pupils study Science as a single subject (Physics, Chemistry and Biology). By 2016 Science will become a Double Award. The core curriculum provides continuity and progression of learning, and to this core is added three further subjects History, Art, Drama and Dance. A Curriculum booklet is provided to help pupils and their parents to prepare for Year 10 and 11. GCSE examinations are taken in all academic subjects except IT (where students follow a discrete curriculum).

### **English as an Additional Language**

Pupils whose first language is not English are assessed prior to entry into Italia Conti and again upon arrival during their induction programme to assess their English language capabilities and needs. Extra support is provided through timetabled EAL (English as an Additional Language) lessons. These lessons aim to develop the students English language skills and communicative ability and to build the students confidence to succeed in an English speaking environment.

### **Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, Special Educational Needs and Gifted and Talented**

At Italia Conti we strive to screen new pupils for learning difficulties and disabilities during the first half term after their entry to the school, as well as acting upon any information passed on by the pupil's previous school. The screening tests highlight those pupils who are gifted and those who have specific learning difficulties.

Pupils who have been assessed as having a learning difficulty and/or disability or those with specific Special Educational Needs have their needs considered individually by the learning specialist. Gifted children are provided with opportunities to extend their knowledge in extension work in the classroom or small group activities. There are also a plethora of activities that stretch and challenge, together with enrichment classes for Year 10 and 11. The provision for a pupil with a learning difficulty depends on a pupil's need having been formally diagnosed; and may include such help as group support within the classroom. Teaching staff are well informed, have up to date knowledge of effective learning and teaching strategies

and are skilled at teaching pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those with particular special educational needs.

### **Careers**

Careers guidance is supported by the FE team through visits and events and pupils are given individual support. Information is available to all pupils and by the school which provides support and advice as well as facilitating additional visits to theatre schools, 6<sup>th</sup> Form Colleges and visits from outside agencies, speakers and advisers. For 16+ applications, there is a systematic mentoring process which is supported by the Head Teacher.

### **Private Study**

Italia Conti promotes private study and there are computer facilities on the third and sixth floor. In some cases, the Head Teacher may insist that a pupil attends Supervised Private Study to support GCSE coursework.

### **Academic Ethos**

There is a considerable emphasis placed on examination success (most pupils will obtain between 7 and 9 GCSEs along with a range of vocational awards) in line with vocational success, though it is important that as much attention is given to those who find academic work challenging as to the high-fliers. Colleagues are expected to monitor academic performance closely and take appropriate action promptly in the case of those pupils who are struggling to access the curriculum. All pupils are expected to give of their best and to be encouraged to develop their natural talents to the full. Modest results for pupils who may find academic work challenging are as worthy of recognition as are outstanding results for another who may be naturally gifted.

### **Curriculum Booklets**

These booklets set out the key information necessary to prepare and encourage independent learning. They can be accessed and downloaded from the main curriculum section of the School website.