



The Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts

Theatre Arts School

ADMISSIONS POLICY SECONDARY SCHOOL 2015 - 2018

Introduction

The very nature of the school is creative and specialises in developing outstanding performance and creative skills alongside a robust academic education within its curriculum design and delivery.

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

Italia Conti welcomes pupils of all faiths, cultures, races and family backgrounds. We are happy to admit a pupil with a disability as long as both parents and school conclude that we can provide appropriately for the child's specific needs. The Academy seeks to ensure that disabled prospective pupils are not treated less favourably or unfairly in the admissions process and will take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage in matters of admission.

The Academy welcomes applications for admission from all sections of society and is non-discriminatory in line with the Equality Act (2010) and Equal Opportunities Policy. This applies to all pupils and includes inappropriate discrimination on the grounds of: gender; age; religion or belief; physical ability or disability (including HIV status); learning ability; other special educational needs or academic or sporting ability; race (including colour, nationality, ethnicity, family, cultural or linguistic background); marital status and civil partnership; sex; sexual orientation; trade union membership; part-time and fixed-term working; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity. These factors are taken into account in the care of our community members so that care is sensitive to different needs.

Admission is based on

- Talent shown during the audition process demonstrating that the applicant has the necessary potential for a successful career within the theatrical profession.
- A satisfactory latest report from the prospective pupil's previous school.
- The successful completion of the audition process for all pupils entering from Year 7 to Year 10. In exceptional circumstances pupils from Year 6 are accepted.
- Where applicable, overseas students are required to undertake a language proficiency assessment before a place is offered. This includes a written assessment and may also include an interview in person.

- Completion of the entrance procedure, as set out below, for each year group of entry.

Italia Conti is committed to ensuring that the Admissions Register is maintained in accordance with Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. From the beginning of the first day on which the school has agreed or been informed that the pupil will attend the school, an entry will be made in the school's Admissions Register in line with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006.

The Academy reserves the right to refuse entry and progress into any year from Year 7 to Year 10 if the school's structure, in the opinion of the Principal, Vice-Principal, Head Teacher and teachers, does not meet the educational, pastoral and social needs of the pupil concerned.

Parents have the right to appeal against an unsuccessful application using the school's Complaints Procedure. The way in which the Academy deals with pupil exclusion and removal is set out in the Exclusions Policy. Therefore, this Admissions Policy should be read in conjunction with the **School's Behaviour, Equal Opportunities, Audition and SEND Policy**.

Admissions Register (for school use)

- On taking up a place at the school an entry is made in the Admissions Register.
- The Admissions Register is held on electronic format on the School's main database, 3SYS.
- The following items are recorded in the Register:
 - Full Name
 - Gender
 - Name and address of all parents/guardians and/or carer
 - At least one telephone number at which the parent/guardian can be contacted
 - Date of Birth
 - Date of Admission / Re-admission
 - Name and address of previous school
 - Name of Year Group on entry (e.g. Year 7)
- Copies of the Admissions Register are held at the school for a minimum of 3 years
- The Admissions Register allows for the inclusion / deletion from the register and is done in line with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

The Theatre Arts School Procedure

Admissions Procedure

Admission for boys and girls to Italia Conti is usually at 11+ into Year 7, at 13+ into Year 9, or at 14+ into Year 10. Places are also available for admission at 12+ into Year 8.

Pupils are selected for entry through the school's audition process and consideration is also given to character, and extra-curricular attainments or interests. We endeavour to find out as much as possible about each child before considering an offer of a place; that is why we interview every child during the audition process.

Entrance Audition

All prospective pupils may be invited to visit the school prior to audition and must complete the School's application form in order to be formally considered for a place at Italia Conti. Italia Conti auditions at various points during the year and the Scholarship audition usually takes place in the spring term.

Audition Process:

Interviews

Candidates may be invited to Italia Conti for an informal visit and interview with the Head Teacher prior to the audition.

Candidates may be interviewed formally by the Principal or her deputies following their audition.

Audition

Candidates are invited to prepare the following genres which are assessed by the Academy's panel of experts:

It should be noted that candidates may not be required to show all prepared pieces. Candidates may also be invited to participate in short warm up/class sessions.

ACTING

Please learn two contrasting short pieces. These pieces should last approximately one minute each. Candidates may also be asked to sight-read.

DANCE

Ideally, three contrasting dance disciplines should be shown, e.g. ballet, modern or jazz dance and tap. Candidates who are not experienced in three dance disciplines must show two contrasting disciplines or styles.

SINGING

One song of the applicant's own choice- this can be any style.

Examinations

Candidates take tests in English, Mathematics, and Verbal and Numerical Reasoning during the audition process. All papers are designed to bring out the skills and potential of the candidates, whatever they may have covered in the past.

Offers of places and scholarships (only applicable to the scholarship audition) are based upon performance in the audition process. Offers are usually within a month of the audition with acceptances required within two weeks. Pupils joining the school will receive detailed information following acceptance.

Scholarships

The Academy does from time to time offer a reduced means tested scholarship to parents whose children would be unable to continue to train full time without financial assistance.

The Stage Scholarship

The Stage Scholarships is assessed with a view to providing pupils with notable ability in the performing arts with the opportunity to study at Italia Conti. The breadth and depth of the awards can vary each year depending on the quality of applicants. All candidates interested in applying for a scholarship must fill out the Scholarship Application forms.

- Scholarships can only be considered for candidates who attend the scholarship audition. In the event of there being no outstanding candidates for this particular award, the money may be allocated to another category.
- The awards are made with due regard to parental income and are usually worth a percentage of the school fees but may also be a fixed amount.
- Scholarships will remain until the pupil reaches the end of Year 11 provided they maintain the expected standards.
- While a scholarship is generally awarded to one candidate, there is no set number of scholarship awards and a sum equivalent to one full pupil's fees may be given to two or three candidates in a particular year.

Offer of a Place and Deposits

If, in due course, a place is offered by way of a formal letter from the School, the deposit will be payable when parents accept the offer.

For the September intake of pupils, prospective parents may be invited to attend an Induction Day in July which is specifically for new pupils and parents and it provides an opportunity for new parents to meet the School staff.

A School Induction Pack and Information Book will be available to new parents providing general information, curriculum information.

Named Responsibility of Policy: Mrs K Dwyer-Burchill – Head Teacher

Date of Policy: November 2015

Date of next Review: November 2018