



APRIL 2021

# Sylvia Young Theatre School

**A SPECIALIST PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL OFFERING A HIGH  
LEVEL OF ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL STUDIES**



## Welcome

We have here, at the Sylvia Young Theatre School, a caring family atmosphere in which all students are encouraged to develop their individual talents and to achieve high standards in both the academic and vocational curriculum.

Our School provides a supportive atmosphere based on self-discipline, good work ethic, mutual respect, cooperation and understanding.

Our central London location, well-served by public transport, allows us to draw students across the south-east and the wider UK.

Marble Arch, Edgware Road, Baker Street and Marylebone station are all within walking distance to the school.

The Sylvia Young Theatre School is non-denominational and co-educational. Our students range from 10 to 16 years of age. We are a small school of around 250 students and value our 'family atmosphere'.

Students join our full time school after successfully completing the audition process. We hold auditions throughout the school year.



## Academic Subjects

*English*

*Mathematics*

*Science*

*Humanities*

*Art*

*ICT*

*Spanish*

*Academic Drama*

*Media Studies*

## The School Week

### Academic & Vocational

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday our students follow their academic programme, building key skills in addition to working for GCSE examinations in a broad range of subjects.

On Thursday and Friday students follow their vocational programme, receiving training in the performing arts (drama, singing and dance) whilst developing their individual performance skills.

The School day is from 8.45am - 4.00pm with some GCSE classes on academic days until 5pm. Academic uniform is worn Monday-Wednesday and Vocational uniform Thursday & Friday.

The Sylvia Young Theatre School has high expectations of students academically as well as vocationally and places considerable emphasis on the academic curriculum.

Year 6 are based in their own classroom with their academic class teacher, who is a primary specialist, for most of their academic lessons. This provides a secure base for the students in order to ease them into a secondary school environment. The class teacher gets to know the students very well and can ensure that students of a wide range of ability are appropriately challenged and supported in their academic studies. Our Year 6 students make the transition to the year 7 academic curriculum very easily and they are not daunted by the prospect of moving on to 'secondary school' when they finish year 6.

In years 7 & 8, students study a fairly broad, traditional academic curriculum consisting of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Spanish, ICT and Art.



In year 9, Media Studies and academic drama are added to the curriculum. Triple Science GCSE is also offered as an option for students with a particular aptitude for, and interest in, Science and is delivered through an after school (4-5pm) class for which there is an additional charge.

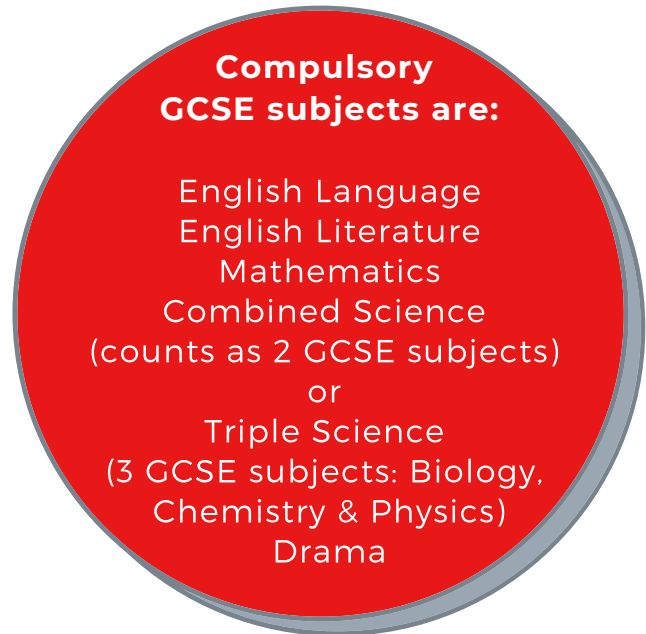
In years 10 & 11, all students take GCSE examinations in eight or nine subjects. English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (Combined or Triple) and Drama are all compulsory GCSE subjects. Two options are chosen from History, Spanish, Art, Music and Media Studies.

The GCSE results that students achieve in just three days of academic study per week are a testament to the tremendous hard work of the students and staff. Throughout the school, PSHCE is delivered through a PSHCE programme for form time, through assemblies, visiting speakers, and as an integral part of the curriculum across all academic subjects.

Careers Education is delivered as part of PSHCE, as well as through specific careers talks to individual year groups. In years 10 & 11, this includes visits by staff from a range of vocational and academic colleges to give talks to, and run workshops for, the students to assist them in choosing their post-16 pathway and preparing for auditions.



Our aim is for all students to have a wide range of academic options open to them when they leave SYTS at the end of year 11 if they decide to pursue an academic pathway either alongside, or instead of, further vocational training.



The opportunity to study triple science, a language and a humanities subject to GCSE enables students to progress to a wide range of 'A' level subjects and degree courses.

In recent years, we have had students move on sixth forms at a significant number of highly regarded selective academic schools and colleges, and after this to a wide range of courses at Russell Group universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, King's College London, Bristol and Exeter.

The Sylvia Young Theatre School places great emphasis on high standards and on excellence in the Performing arts.

Our aim is to provide a unique opportunity for students with potential in the performing arts to train and to perfect their skills. Expectations will be high.

The vocational curriculum offered is designed to:

- Enable students to develop skill, and confidence in their talent.
- Instill 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.

**Vocational Subjects**  
*Ballet*  
*Drama*  
*Contemporary*  
*Jazz*  
*Music Study*  
*Singing*  
*Tap*

Students will be exposed to as wide a variety as possible of styles and techniques in the various disciplines, regularly receiving tuition from more than one teacher in a particular subject.

Students must attend classes in all vocational disciplines.

The 'Lab' (Drama group) & Acro classes run after school and are available to all students.



**Parents day**  
Parents are invited to watch their child (work in progress) in vocational classes at our parent's open day during the school year.

**Presentation Work**  
Students in Year 8 & Year 10 perform a parents presentation in which family and friends are invited.

**Concert**  
Each December the school performs a Festive choir at a London venue.





## Pastoral

SYTS prides itself on being a warm, friendly and supportive environment. We strongly believe that the students' personal wellbeing and development is equally as important as their academic success and vocational training. The size of the school assists in ensuring that each student receives a level of support and guidance that is not always possible in a larger school. Many of our students who join us mid-year comment on how inclusive the school is and how they feel more comfortable and able to 'be themselves'. On arrival to SYTS students are also issued with two buddies, to be a point of contact and to help with the transition process. We are proud that our students settle here very quickly.

At SYTS we take the care, support and mental health of our students seriously and have put in place systems to ensure that students feel safe, secure and supported throughout their time with us. The SYTS Pastoral and Well-being team are there for the students and this is heavily aided by our incredible academic form tutors who meet with the students three times a week to set targets; offer guidance and facilitate the students' personal, social and health education. In Year 11 students are able to take part in our mentoring programme which is there to support them on their final stages of GCSEs. Year 11s are also given comprehensive career advice to prepare them for all eventualities.

There are approximately 250 students in the school from years 6 to 11. Year 6 is one form of entry and usually contains between 10 and 12 students. Year 7 to 11 have two forms in each year with generally between 20 and 24 students in each.

SYTS is a place where students thrive.

# Admission

The aim of the school is to offer places only to those prospective students who demonstrate that they will be able to take full advantage of the education the Sylvia Young Theatre School is able to offer.

This decision will be made on the basis of their performance in auditions, the academic tests and school reports/ information made available to the school. We are committed to ensuring that admission decisions are made through a process that is free of any discrimination on the grounds of disability, race; ethnic or national origin or gender.

The school must also feel sure that we are able to educate and develop the prospective student to the best of his or her potential, so that the student will have a happy, fulfilling and successful school career. These aims will continue to be met throughout the student's time at the school.

This is reflected in the division of our school week. Condensing a regular five day academic week into a three day academic week and two days of vocational training.

Applicants need to achieve a good standard academically and be able to cope with a 3 day academic week.

This arrangement may not suit all applicants.

Admission to the school normally takes place at age 10 in year 6 or at age 11 in year 7. Admission at other ages may be possible, depending on the availability of places.





## Admission Procedures

In the first instance, complete the online application form uploading student's latest full school report and photograph.

## Applicant Audition

Applicants will be asked to perform;

- two acting pieces (supplied by the school).
- a song of applicant's choice.
- a dance of applicant's choice.

Applicants will then be invited to sit a full academic test including an English test (creative writing and comprehension) and a maths test.

School information in more detail is available on the school website.

