



DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
SCHOLARSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

www.ditchampark.com



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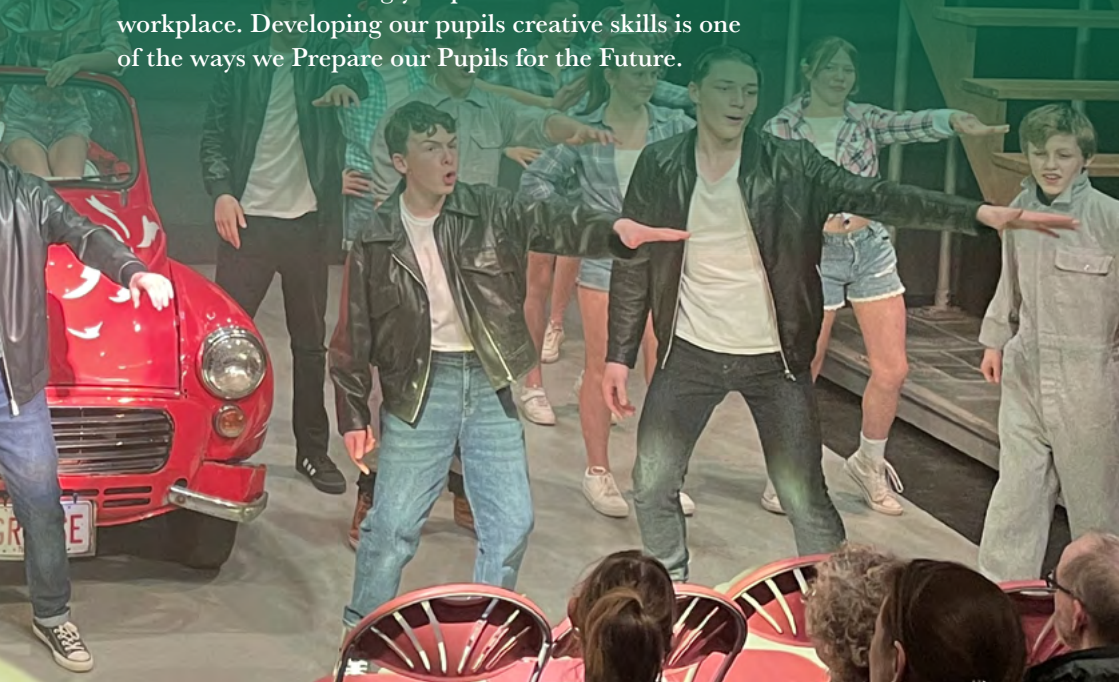
Ditcham Park School Creative and Performing Arts *Scholarship and Development* Programme

Art, Drama and Music are a vitally important part of life at Ditcham Park School. We pride ourselves in giving every pupil the opportunity to explore their potential and to enjoy being creative through their performing, acting, painting, drawing and sculpture, whatever their ability, in both curricular and co-curricular settings.

We are proud to have won an ISA award for Excellence and Innovation in the Performing and Creative Arts in 2019. Our pupils' passion for performance is palpable and is fired by a desire to explore and interpret the world in which they find themselves living. Being creative is an increasingly important attribute in the workplace. Developing our pupils creative skills is one of the ways we Prepare our Pupils for the Future.



Graham Spawforth
Headmaster





Introduction

A key element of our Scholarship programme is Creative and Performance Development which is designed to inspire, inform and develop our talented and ambitious creative pupils. Aside from our already established and busy schedule of events in and outside of school, we have introduced a range of opportunities to excite and motivate our pupils to develop even higher aspirations and achievements.

This includes:

Visiting Professionals - individuals, companies, artists, producers, performers

High achieving professional people in the music industry, actors and theatre companies and artists are invited to school to meet and inspire our pupils by talking about their life in music, art, drama and their pathway to success.

Visits to Exhibitions, venues, competitions

Visits to centres of creative excellence are organised to inspire and inform our pupils. These will include local and national venues. This involves attending theatre performances, concerts, art exhibitions, masterclasses and so on.

Individual Support & Development

Our Creative and Performing Arts staff provide support, advice and opportunities for scholars and individuals who show an aptitude for Art, Drama or Music.

We look forward to nurturing and developing our pupils' skills and talents, with the aim of celebrating future creative success achieved by our pupils.

Helen Drake, Head of Art

Heather Baker, Head of Drama

Ed Williamson, Head of Music





Art

Art Department

The Ditcham Park School Art Department is a vibrant centre of creativity and achievement. With consistently outstanding GCSE results, students are encouraged to develop their individual artistic voice through painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, and digital media.

The department is proud of its national recognition, with pupils winning prestigious awards through the National Independent Schools' Association. Learning extends well beyond the classroom: students take part in workshops with visiting photographers, sculptors, and painters, and enjoy trips to London's leading galleries as well as local excursions to paint en plein air, making the most of our picturesque surroundings.

Art is woven into the life of the school, from showcasing work in exhibitions to playing an integral role in producing imaginative props and scenery for drama productions. This dynamic environment nurtures talent, builds confidence, and inspires every student to see creativity as a powerful force for self-expression and success.

Our Art Development Programme is designed to inspire, inform, and develop our Art Scholars and other ambitious, able pupils.





Highlights include:

- **Visiting Professional Artists** Successful artists and creative professionals are regularly invited to meet our pupils, sharing insights into their careers and pathways to success.
- **Arts Award** Creative students are encouraged to take part in the nationally recognised Arts Award, which deepens their engagement with the arts. They enjoy additional art lessons as part of their timetable, enabling them to complete themed projects and further develop their own creative voice.
- **Art Exhibitions** Throughout the year, we hold in-school exhibitions to showcase student work to the Ditcham Park community.
- **Clubs and Workshops** We offer a variety of clubs and workshops, ensuring all students have the opportunity to experience and enjoy creative expression.






Music at Ditcham Park School

Music is a central and cherished part of life at Ditcham Park School. We are proud to offer every pupil the chance to discover and develop their musical potential, regardless of experience or ability. Whether through classroom learning or extra-curricular activities, music is woven into the fabric of our school community.

From whole-class instrumental lessons (Brass in Year 4, Woodwind in Year 5, and Violin in Year 6) to a rich array of co-curricular opportunities, our curriculum is designed to ignite curiosity and build lasting musical skills.

Each week, our school resonates with musical activity. Pupils rehearse with ensembles such as the Senior Concert Band, Senior Jazz Band, Junior Wind band, Junior and Senior Choirs, and a wide variety of instrumental groups. Our dedicated





team of 12 visiting peripatetic music teachers delivers up to 200 individual instrumental and vocal lessons weekly, supporting pupils in their personal musical journeys.

Performance is at the core of our musical culture. Pupils shine in events such as the Senior and Junior Concerts, Battle of the Bands, and our annual School Musical. Pupils also represent Ditcham Park at prestigious events like the Petersfield Musical Festival, the Combined Schools Christmas Concert, and Young Voices at the O2 Arena, unforgettable experiences that build confidence and pride.

Our Music Development Programme is a dynamic initiative designed to inspire, challenge, and elevate our most passionate and promising musicians, including our Music Scholars.





Highlights include:

- **Visiting Professional Musicians Pupils** gain invaluable insight from successful performers and industry professionals who lead masterclasses and share their journeys to musical success.
- **Musical Visits** We take music beyond the classroom, with trips to concerts, workshops, and centres of musical excellence that broaden horizons and spark ambition.
- **Tailored Support & Performance Opportunities** Scholars receive personalised mentoring, access to exclusive events, and the chance to compete in prestigious competitions such as the ISA Young Musicians and Musical Theatre Awards.







Drama

Drama is the beating heart of Ditcham both within and outside the curriculum. Our vibrant and successful LAMDA programme taught by Jenny De Jongh, is taken up by the majority of our pupils, starting from as young as Year 1 up to Year 11, all of whom achieved 'Distinction' in the summer exams in 2025. All pupils are actively encouraged to take advantage of this brilliant opportunity to develop their devising and performance skills.

Year 6 begin their Drama journey with an hour of Drama a week with the Head of Juniors, Mrs Probert. Students continue Drama lessons through Year 7&8 with a vibrant curriculum taught by Mrs Baker (Head of Drama). It is a hugely popular subject at GCSE level, with pupils achieving





outstanding results, consistently above the national average. Many pupils go on to study Drama at A Level, University and Drama School.

As part of our Period 6 Curriculum, students have the opportunity to take part in the Trinity Arts Award, developing transferable skills like creativity, confidence, and leadership, which are valuable for future education and employment, as well as fostering enjoyment and participation in the arts.

We have also become well known for our amazing yearly whole school production, a joint collaboration between the Creative Arts Departments and the Latin Department with the amazing direction and choreography from Miss Bicknell. This is truly a whole school effort, where student can participate in all aspects of the production.





Our comprehensive programme of theatre trips Theatre both locally and to London, play a vital role in delivering a dynamic and exciting Drama education for all of our pupils. Regular visits are made to; The Chichester Festival Theatre, The National Theatre, The Globe Theatre and London's West End Theatres.

Among former pupils we have an international Musical Theatre performer, Red Rance.

Each year we expect to make one or two Drama Scholarship awards to applicants who demonstrate significant acting ability, the potential to perform a significant role within a Youth Theatre production and hold the aspiration to follow a professional career in theatre. The award attracts a fee remission of between 5% and 10% and carries with it the expectation of future progress and involvement in the Dramatic life of the school. The recipient of a scholarship will also be expected to take GCSE Drama as an option.







Drama Development Programme

A key element of our scholarship programme is Drama Development which is designed to inspire, inform and develop our creatively talented and ambitious young people. We have created a range of opportunities to excite and motivate our pupils to develop even higher aspirations and achievements.

This includes:

Visits to the Theatre

Visits to theatres both locally and in London are organised to inspire and inform our pupils.

Individual Support and Development

Our Drama team will provide support to our scholars including, advising on performance opportunities available with local Youth Theatre Companies, audition coaching, regular acting skills workshops as well as identifying higher education pathways to follow.



Visiting Professional Actor Programme

Successful professional actors are invited to school to meet and inspire our pupils by talking about their life as a performer, as well as their pathway to success.



Jamie Parker

Jamie is a world-renowned, Olivier Award winning British actor. His career has involved The West End and Broadway, including a record-breaking run with the National Theatre's production of 'The History Boys', the film '1917' directed by Sam Mendes and 'Harry Potter and The Cursed Child'.

We welcomed Jamie to Ditcham Park in the Autumn of 2021, who spent the day presenting a talk about his career with Senior Pupils and running acting masterclasses with all those on the Drama development programme. We look forward to inviting him back again this year.



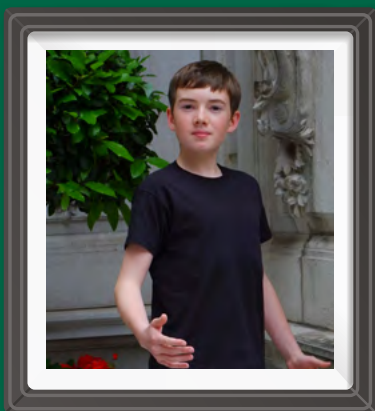
Albert de Jongh

We welcomed Albert to Ditcham Park in the Spring of 2023. Albert spent the day running audition workshops for pupils hoping to be selected for the ESU Shakespeare For Schools, Regional Competition.



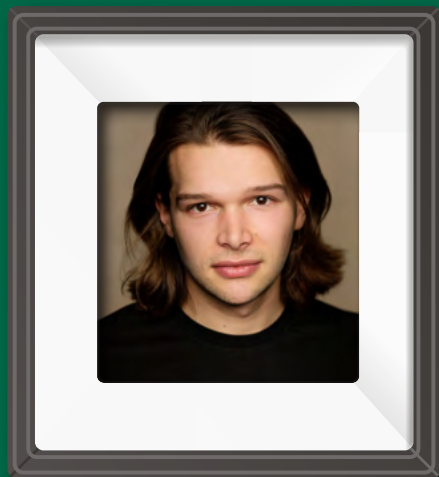
We wish to celebrate and promote the achievements of pupils who have received National Awards and former pupils who have reached professional status as artists, actors, directors, designers and musicians. Among our talented pupils and Alumni, we are proud of the achievements of the following:

Drama



Toby Field

Toby won the English Speaking Union Shakespeare by Heart competition in 2019 and left Ditcham in 2021.



Albert de Jongh

Albert de Jongh left Ditcham in 2008 and went on to train as an actor at The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). He now works as an actor on both stage and screen. Albert has worked on screen with the likes of Jodie Comer (*Killing Eve*) in *The White Princess*, Dakota Fanning (*Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*) & Luke Evans (*The Hobbit*) in *The Alienist* for Paramount television. He comes back to Ditcham every year to run a speaking Shakespeare masterclass and coach the pupils for the English Speaking Union competition (ESU). Albert has been coaching pupils for LAMDA exams, drama schools and audition technique since 2014 and has loved giving back in his own creative way to the school that started his acting career off.

Art



Philip Hunt

Philip was one of the first pupils to join the School in its Foundation Year of 1976.

He spent 6 years here where he developed a love and talent for art. He went on to study animation at the Royal College of Art which led him into a creative career which has taken him all over the world. In 2000 Philip co-founded Studio aka an independent animation studio based in London.

In 2009 Philip produced an animated film called Lost and Found which won a BAFTA (British equivalent to an Oscar) and a further 61 international awards. Philip won an Emmy this year for the Film 'HERE WE ARE: Notes for living on Planet Earth' and recent productions by the studio, such as Hey Duggee have also attracted multiple Baftas & Emmys and an Oscar nomination.

Find out more at:
www.studioaka.co.uk



Music



Joe Boyle

Joe left Ditcham at the age of 16 in 2010 and headed on to South Downs college to study music. It was here that alongside studying classical violin and piano, he started to play jazz guitar. This was thanks to the jazz and music technology tutor there. He was invited to play in the youth big band that he ran in Southampton so he went along and got his first real taste of being a jazz musician. With this band, he had the opportunity to play with some of the biggest names in the UK jazz scene, including Courtney Pine and Ian Shaw. The most notable moment, however, was when they were asked to take part in a big band competition in London, which saw the band and myself performing on stage at the Barbican Centre, alongside the hosts of the competition - the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra feat. Wynton Marsalis. Since then, he's gone on to teach music in various places and he has been the double bass teacher at Croydon Music and Arts and a team member at Bromley Youth Music Trust, where he helps to inspire young people in the art of jazz music by helping to run regular jazz workshops alongside Buster Birch and Steve Buckley.

Find out more and hear him play at:
joeboylemusic.co.uk



Ella de Jongh

Since leaving Ditcham Park School in 2006, music has played an utterly integral part of her life. She sang in the National Youth Choirs since the age of 13 and continued singing national concerts with them until the age of 18 under world renowned conductors. She studied BMus (hons) Music Degree at Royal Holloway, graduating with a First in Performance, whilst learning privately with Professor Susan McCulloch at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. After graduating, she decided that singing was an avenue she was desperate to pursue, and she started to look into doing Postgraduate Study at a conservatoire.

2019 was a bit of a bumper year for her as she was lucky enough to be selected as one of four sopranos from over four hundred applicants for a place on the GSMD's prestigious Opera Course, being one in five British singers in a cohort of twelve. Furthermore, she reached the final for the Susan Longfield Singing Competition and performed a solo recital on the main stage at the Barbican Hall. The Summer of 2019 brought a very happy time; she was an "Alvarez Young Artist" at Garsington Opera in their critically acclaimed and globally streamed production of Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*. 2020-21 saw her final year at the GSMD with two exciting and large-scale opera productions where she was to sing major roles, and she continued to study with her astonishing teacher, Professor Janice Chapman FGS AUA OAM. Ella currently teaches in various schools as well as her professional singing career and we are lucky to have her back at Ditcham as a singing teacher.

More information on her work, including recordings, can be found on her website: www.elladejongh.com



Matthew Harris

Since leaving Ditcham Park in 2008, he went on to study music production at Godalming College and then studied Creative Music Production for two years at ACM (Academy of Contemporary Music).

He has been involved in a few different projects:

- Hyroglifics, his current main project, started releasing in 2012-present currently signed to Critical Music where he releases the main body of his work with this project.
- Rippps - electronic Jazz collaboration project with dutch keyboard player Niels Broos who I met at Red Bull Music Academy signed to Alpha Pup a electronic label based in Los Angeles.
- Wholesome Fun - production duo with multi instrumentalist Jack Chard for beats and production for other artists & Wholesome Music - label set up to release all beats music on
- Recently he has been producing YSL2 for the rapper Black Josh under Wholesome Fun and also writing my debut LP for Critical Music under Hyroglifics

For examples of Matt's work, go to:
<https://soundcloud.com/hyroglifics>



Tom Baynes

During his time at Ditcham Park, he was a music scholar. He achieved grade 8 cello by the age of 16 and when he left in 2014 he went on to do his A levels at Peter Symonds College where he studied Music, Maths and Music Technology. It was here where he discovered an interest in music composition for film. He then won a Music scholarship to Royal Holloway, University of London, where he achieved a first class honours BMus degree. He is now working towards a PhD. He runs his own music composition and production company providing professional music for film, television, and games - Chalkstream Productions Ltd. This provides original composition and music production for film, television, and games as well as commercial music production for new artists.

For more information please go:
www.chalkstreamproductions.com



DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

Where every child is known and valued

For more information about the Creative and Performing Arts
Scholarship and Development Programme please email:

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