**Our Academy**

**Ethos**

We hold space for young people to be able to express themselves without inhibition. A safe place to explore their creative nature and develop over time a grounded, secure confidence and innate self belief. To fully explore and develop an enquiring mind.

There is no rush to achieve excellence and as we all know mastery takes many years of dedication and practice. We do however encourage a steady commitment to their craft and consistency is key!

Pushing through uncomfortable, awkward situations and getting back up on your feet so to speak (even if you feel like what you have created isn’t good enough) is a skill in itself and takes courage! With our use of various drama techniques from improv, clowning, voice work, movement, storytelling, stage skills, theatre craft & management, script & play writing, prop making, games and general play (phew!) we open up the space for dynamism to shine through.

 We recognise that whatever is offered comes from the heart and is precious and unique to that individual, which we cherish and respect. Being bold enough to just take risks, give things ago, to try AND fail is vital! In the theatre space there are no mistakes as such just lessons and explorations, everything can be used in some way… even if for a stark reminder of what we never want to do again!!

Along with creating experimental performance and working towards our Lamda exams and syllabus, we focus on building resilience and passion for life along with our art.

**Sessions**

Our classes run every Saturday afternoon at St.Mary’s Church on Overton Drive, Wanstead for 5-15 year olds. They commence at 2pm and finish at 5pm.

There is a sharing of work every half term (works in progress etc) and every term, a performance. Sometimes this will be a recognised work, sometimes a devised performance, often both! We let the children choose as a group what they would like to create and lead from there. (Autonomy and self direction/enquiry are strongly encouraged!)

We break for summer and school holidays and generally run along the school term timetable. There are always lots of holiday workshops running too.

The classes are mixed ages as we have found over the years works brilliantly. We are not separated by age in everyday life are we?

The older children actually get to practice helping and encouraging the younger ones and the younger children love to look up to and get inspired by their elders. Empathy, patience, sharing and caring all grown and developed!

The 3 hour session will consist of an hour of Lamda/exam work, an hour of free creativity/drama/games and an hour of performance creating… loosely! (And in no particular order). It is not school!!

Exams (give or take) are entered for roughly every 6-8 months, depending on. Our focus is not on achieving but being, creating and making. (Do not read as tardiness though!). We are however seeking for passion and enjoyment, rather than force! (And it is often in these circumstances where we do not feel the 'pressure' and can just go with the flow and create, that we produce and develop some of our best work and ideas).

**Payment and Enrollment**

There is one free taster session to come along and see if it is for you!

Thereafter, payment is £30 per session if you choose to pay weekly. Payments need to be made either before the class via bank transfer or in cash on the day. No later.

Termly payments are preferred for consistency and to limit paperwork! A 10% discount incentive is in place to encourage this. We do however appreciate it is the weekend and other things are going on, so weekly payments (as long as not neglected) have been made available.

(10% discount is in place whatever method of payment for siblings).

Registration is via email with all important parent/guardian contact details/allergies/special requests/payment deets etc laid out.

**Code of Conduct**

Respect. That is all.

**Safe Guarding Policies**

Safe guarding policies will be sent out upon request and registration.