



# ST JAMES

Academy of Performing Arts



**The St James Academy of Performing Arts was launched in September 2022 to provide first-class training and to foster enthusiasm for and enjoyment of the performing arts.**

The Academy is co-ordinated by Patricia Snowdon, an experienced dance teacher. She is a Life Member of both the Royal Academy of Dance and the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing and an adjudicator and Fellow of the British and International Federation of Festivals.

Classes take place at Earsby Street after school. Pupils are supervised at school and are able to do their homework whilst waiting for their classes. Classes also run on Saturdays from 9am to 1 pm. Pupils have the opportunity to take grade exams and participate in performances.

Teachers are well qualified and dance classes and follow the ISTD syllabuses for Ballet, Modern and Tap and LAMDA for Drama. All classes are age and standard appropriate.



## Dance

### Ballet

Ballet classes at St James' are a fun and inspiring introduction to learning the basics of ballet movements. The Prep School lessons will incorporate music and movement in engaging and imaginative ways whilst developing confidence within a safe and welcoming environment. The Senior School classes will focus on encouraging a sound basic technique and an understanding of musical interpretation to provide the essentials of a pure classical training.



### Modern

These classes are an enjoyable way to learn to dance, consisting of high energy warm-ups to get fully prepared for all the different moves which are incorporated in the classes.

Up-to-date music is used and co-ordination and strength building all help with confidence and knowledge of dance.

### Tap

Our tap classes encompass many different styles incorporating the sounds made by the dancer wearing shoes with metal taps. Tap dances should be rhythmic, show clearly defined rhythmic patterns and precision in beating and footwork. This form of dance also helps with co-ordination and confidence.

### Jazz Dance

*(Senior School only)*

Jazz Dance refers to a dance technique, which evolved from musical theatre into more contemporary hybrids such as modern dance. It may incorporate influences from contemporary dance with freedom in the style and choice of music. The choreography should reflect the rhythms and dynamics of the music, clear sustained technique in turns, kicks and elevated steps. There is a strong emphasis on energy and style.

### Contemporary Dance

*(Senior School only)*

Contemporary Dance stems from the core, or torso, of the body and uses elements of contraction on release, spiral, floor work, fall and recovery, and improvisation.

Breath should inform movement, with weight, swing, suspension, and release applied.

Choreography should explore themes and the use of contraction, extension, and relaxation should be explored along with the use of the spine. The space should be explored in a multi layered way including, levels, planes, and facings.

At its core the work should demonstrate a clear underpinning of recognisable contemporary dance techniques (such as Graham, Cunningham, Horton, Release) which may be amalgamated.

### Hip-Hop

*(Senior School only)*

This is a free-form contemporary style of dance, which can combine elements of funk, popping, locking and breaking.



**Imperial Society of  
Teachers of Dancing**

**Registered Member**

## Drama

### Group classes

Group drama classes encourage both self-expression and team work. Classes are varied, filled with imagination, storytelling and text work. Where possible learners can be submitted for Group LAMDA and introductory exams.

### One-to-one LAMDA

These lessons explore drama, character and voice. In learning a poem or monologue, the lessons aims to find the individual's unique abilities and helps them grow in confidence and skill. Pupils are entered for LAMDA exams.

We teach **LAMDA**  
— Exams & Qualifications

## Singing

### Group classes in Musical Theatre

#### Early years Singing Class

A fun 30 minute class combining games, movement and song to encourage the children to experiment with their voices and gain confidence. Scarves, props and percussion

are used, and familiar nursery rhymes and simple melodies to introduce young children to rhythm and musicality.

#### Musical Theatre Singing

*(Prep and Senior)*

These classes mix movement and vocal warm-ups to inspire the children to explore their singing voices.

Children will learn a variety of musical theatre songs and engage with different styles, themes and repertoire.



No matter what direction Learners choose to follow in the future, LAMDA examinations provide the opportunity to nurture their natural abilities. These critical skills will enhance their self-confidence to engage and contribute fully, whether at school in further education, at work or in the community. In other words, to fulfil their potential.  
**LAMDA**

## Uniform

There is a St James Academy of Performing Arts uniform which includes a dance uniform, t-shirt, hoodie and holdall.

## Enrolment

If you would like your child to take part, please log on to School Cloud:

Junior School Cloud >>

Senior School Cloud >>

Please note that St James Academy of Performing Arts pupils are encouraged to participate for the full academic year. However, your child is very welcome to have a trial lesson without charge at the beginning of term.