



THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL

Careers Education & Guidance Policy (CEG)

Due to the very nature of our school most students expect to go on to a full time career in the world of Dance. The recent employment rates amongst students leaving the Upper School have been very high, with a vast majority gaining professional dance contracts. In addition the majority of Lower School students go on to Vocational Dance schools.

However there is no room for complacency and the school seeks to provide a full range of services and resources for students from year 7 to when they graduate from the school.

The Careers Education & Guidance at The Royal Ballet School is designed to help our pupils:

- a) Understand themselves and the influences on them. Helping them to recognise their own strengths as well as their interests, values, aptitudes and aspirations. (Self Development).
- b) Investigate opportunities in learning and work. We are very keen to make our students aware of the education, training and careers opportunities open to them. We also encourage them to take advantage of The Royal Ballet School network of contacts. (Career Exploration).
- c) Make and adjust plans to manage change and transition. Helping them to make realistic and informed choices about their future education & training (academic and/or vocational) and their potential career paths. We also help them develop the ability to present themselves confidently, communicate appropriately and cope in a variety of adult and work contexts. This is mainly done through the many performance opportunities offered to them during their time here. (Career Management).

Lower School

For those not progressing on to the Upper School, prospectuses and other information on alternative Dance, Performing Arts or other educational establishments are held in the Careers section of the Library. To help in the research and application process we have a file of Ex-White Lodgers and what they have gone on to do. We can put students in touch with ex-students so they may benefit from their experiences too. The Head of Lower School, Ballet Principal, Ballet teachers, Careers Co-ordinator, Year Group Leaders, Tutors, and other staff also have contacts that the students are made aware of in individual tutorials



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The school library also contains a wide range of careers handbooks and FE and HE college prospectuses.

In Year 9 the subject teachers outline their GCSE courses and each student has an interview with their tutor to discuss their choices. Parents and students receive a Year 9 options pack.

Year 10 students and their parents attend a session offered by the Head of Lower School and the Ballet Principal on career prospects in professional dance. The Ballet Principal interviews all students in year 9, 10 and 11 with the specific aim of providing guidance on their future career.

Careers Education & Guidance is also covered as part of the PSHE programme and also as part of the programme offered to all year 11 students following the completion of their GCSE courses.

Should students require a meeting with a trained careers advisor an appointment can be arranged with the Richmond and Twickenham Careers advisory service, Connexions, who will provide professional guidance. We arrange individual sessions with our Connexions Careers advisor following the outcome of the annual ballet appraisals in February for any students.

Upper School

Most students will gain contracts with professional dance companies. Assistance is given in the production of an audition pack.

All second year students are helped to produce detailed CVs and advice is given by experts in that field. All students are set group projects to research and to plan an audition. This includes the drawing up of budgets, the compilation of an audition pack and the writing of letters of application and the construction of CVs.

The Dancers Career Development organization regularly visits the school to talk to all students. Recent presentations have involved talks by former students who have moved from dance into other careers.

The Academic and Pastoral Principal is available to provide information on dance or other degree courses should students wish to follow a more academic route. UCAS form can be completed on-line and a full range of prospectuses are available in the library area.

Work experience is gained by all students both on stage with either The Royal Ballet or the Birmingham Royal Ballet and behind the scenes through the BTEC award in Arts Management. The latter sees students gaining experience in front



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of house, marketing, finance, customer care, health and safety and the box office at the Royal Opera House.

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