



ACS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
COBHAM

PERFORMING ARTS AT ACS COBHAM

ACS Cobham has a very dynamic performing arts programme. In both music and drama we develop the skills of our students from the youngest age groups through to High School. Performing Arts has always been a core part of our programme and it is widely recognized as being an area of excellence.



CURRICULUM PROGRAMME

Starting in Middle School from 5th Grade through to 7th Grade, all our students have classes in music and drama as part of the curriculum. From 8th Grade upwards students can select whether they wish to choose a certain music or drama focus. Or, they can choose both and work up through the grades to develop these specialist skills.

The programme is structured in such a way that students can follow two routes: a general route or a specialist route. On the general route we run drama and music classes for all students. Our specialist route includes extra elective classes for students who want to develop their skills in a certain direction. We take students of different abilities and develop a programme for them according to their abilities.

For performing arts our elective classes include choir, music orchestra, drama and drama production. We also run a rich programme which involves bi-annual drama productions in our theatre as well as smaller studio productions throughout the year. We also have developed our film making skills by producing in house filmed productions such as the recent High School medley and 'Matilda'. For our specialist music students, opportunities include mini concerts, recitals as well as whole school choral and instrumental shows.

When the students reach 11th Grade they can choose to take either IB Theatre and IB Music programme which is a highly recognised programme in this field. Many of our students regularly go on to attend drama and music colleges in Higher education such as Juilliard and Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts.

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There is a wide range of opportunities at ACS Cobham for those interested in music and drama. Before I attended ACS I didn't feel I had the confidence to be on stage, however through the encouragement from our teachers I now love being part of our in house drama productions.

SASHA, AGED 16,
BOARDING STUDENT

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

We have an additional opt in co-curricular programme for Middle and High school students. This includes various orchestra groups such as marimba, rock band, gamalan and ukulele groups during lunch time sessions.

For students who prefer to be behind the scenes we offer a technical theatre club, that helps them develop their skills outside of the traditional music and drama performances.

We run a private music lesson programme for all of our students either during the school day or after school for specific instruments from the flute to the trombone. Students are then able to focus during those one to one lessons.

Many students complete ABRSM and Trinity music exams. We are an exam centre for Trinity and ABRSM and we have a specific programme on Saturday to develop students' skills for these exams.





Artist in Residence Programme

Artist in residence involves specialists from the world of arts coming in and working with students on projects throughout Middle and High School. In the past few years our artists in residence have included actors, screen writers and producers. The programme helps our students gain invaluable experience working with an expert in their field, and developing their skills. It also gives students the confidence to bring those skills into their own projects, and to perform to their peers.

External Events

We are very active beyond the school community and participate in a number of external events.

For our musical students this includes attendance at an event called the Voice in a Million which brings together thousands of students from across the UK in a collaborative choir performance. It is performed at the prestigious Wembley arena and is a unique event to be part of.

Our drama students take part in the Shakespeare Schools, where they present their productions. We are also part of International School Theatre Association (ISTA) productions and participate in Theatre Arts symposia. ACS Cobham has been part of these events for many years and is widely recognized in the industry.

Facilities

Our state of the art Performing Arts Centre was opened in September 2014 and includes some amazing, professional quality facilities:

- 500 seater auditorium complete with fly tower
- Bespoke drama studios for Middle and High School students
- Choral and Musical performance rooms
- Private music lesson spaces
- Behind the scenes theatre production areas for stage building and set design
- Full sound and mixing desk for student-run sound and lighting projects

We also have a specialist in house Performing Arts team that work closely with the students throughout their time at ACS Cobham. This includes 7 full time members of staff in Middle and High School to develop their music and drama skills.





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I like the international nature of the school, I think it is easier than being in a school with just English students. I love the teaching at the school and I particularly enjoy my electives which are drama and High School musical ensemble. I play the saxophone and love being able to do this at school.

REGINA, AGED 16, BOARDING STUDENT



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I have always loved music and wanted to develop my skills in this area. At ACS Cobham I was able to do so not only during the school day but also being part of their co-curricular clubs and private lessons. I now hope to go onto Juilliard School of Music in New York. What I love about ACS Cobham is how you are able to integrate music into your course selection.

YUKI, AGED 18, BOARDING STUDENT