

Hella

The Sponsor



Letter from Kenton Schools Academy Trust

Dear Parent

Kenton Schools Academy Trust is proud to sponsor Studio West. My experience as Principal of Kenton School, which is Newcastle's most popular secondary school, having been oversubscribed with first choice applications for the past fifteen years and more, is your guarantee of the quality of this school. Studio West is lucky to have Mrs Wigham as its visionary Principal, who previously shared with me in the leadership of Kenton School for many years.

Studio West is a school which, on the one hand offers its students traditional personal and moral values in a calm, orderly atmosphere, but, on the other hand, its revolutionary curriculum is an entirely new experience for students.

Studio West is changing education in Newcastle and our region for ever, because our students know that their learning is real.

The businesses that work with us know it too. It is the real live link between school and work, students and employers, closer than any school has created before, which is so revolutionary.

I hope you will consider carefully whether this new approach would meet your child's needs and ambitions and meet with us to discuss.

Yours sincerely

David Pearmain

Chief Executive, Kenton Schools Academy Trust



Introduction from the Principal

"A small school making a big difference"

I feel privileged to be leading such a forward-thinking and innovative school and I hope that you will be as excited as I am about the opportunities we offer.

Our pioneering vision is to revolutionise the way we teach our young people and ensure they are properly prepared for work in a way which will enable them to smoothly transfer from the classroom to the workplace at whatever level they decide to enter employment.

Studio West is a vibrant place to learn and is at the heart of the community. We are forward looking and have a unique 21st Century curriculum which is creative, scientific, technological, enterprising and occupational; connecting the learning to the world beyond the classroom.

"From our research we know there are no other schools in our locality that offer such a modern and holistic approach to education'

At Studio West we offer a distinctive small school environment where every student is listened to, encouraged and challenged to be the best they can be.

We provide the very highest quality of secondary education in an inspirational learning environment. Serving just 350 students enables us to know every child.



Our inclusive and nurturing community, coupled with our amazing learning environment, allows every student to develop the skills, confidence and knowledge they need to reach and go beyond their potential. At Studio West, we believe that young people flourish when they are taught in small classes and treated like adults and when offered a personalised approach which identifies and supports their individual development needs.

We operate Studio West along the lines of a caring, extended 'family'. Learning, Personal Coaches and students get to know each other well, to feel an important part of the whole school and consequently develop a much stronger sense of personal and communal responsibility.

To be successful and competitive in our ever changing global world a young person needs to be highly skilled, confident, resilient and compassionate. We provide an outstanding, rich learning environment and nurture our students to grow and develop the strengths and skills they need to succeed; regardless of background or prior attainment.

For parents, our 'whole student' approach and our commitment to communicating with you and involving you in your child's learning will mean that you will feel confident in working with us.



I know that choosing a school can be one of the toughest decisions to make which is why I am committed to meeting with any student or parent who wants to find out more and explore their future at our Studio School.

The staff and I here at Studio West look forward to meeting you.

Val Wigham Principal Studio West

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Why choose a Studio School



What are Studio Schools?

Studio Schools are a new type of school for older secondary school students of all abilities. They are small schools of about 300 students. They use new ways of learning involving enterprise projects and real work. There are a number of Studio Schools opening across the country, but Studio West is the only one in Newcastle upon Tyne and Tyneside.

How big will Studio West be in future?

Studio West is big and small!

Studio West has all the best features of a small school - a safe environment where every student is known well and nobody slips through the net. Your child's Personal Coach will guide their progress in all they do and keep in touch with you.

Small class sizes... More focus

Students are part of a small, supportive and personalised learning environment. The school opened in September 2014 with approximately 120 students in total, which we expect to rise to a maximum of just over 300 in the coming years.

But we do not miss out on the large school advantages either, as our links with Kenton School provide high quality technical backup and professional services, and even more importantly, expert specialist teaching to match your child's special interests and talents.



Who are Learning Coaches?

Our Learning Coaches are teachers. They know the students well, placing them in an excellent position to tailor the curriculum to the individual needs of each student. Our team include experienced teachers from the secondary school sector, subject specialists in core subjects of Maths, English, Science and ICT. We also have professionals with direct experience within commerce and industry.

Who are Personal Coaches?

The best performers in the world in every field have coaches - people who help them to do better. A Personal Coach at Studio West looks at how a student performs and offers advice and guidance on how to do better. Top performers know that getting to the top is only half the battle - staying there is equally, if not more, difficult.

Our team of Personal Coaches work alongside the Learning Coaches to help recognise and provide any additional support that a student may need to reach their full potential. This includes recognising when students are able to progress at a higher rate and ensuring personalised support to stretch their abilities. Personal Coaches will get to know each student's strengths, interests, aspirations, and areas for development, and will work with them to set challenging targets and help them achieve their goals.

Personal Coaches also work closely with parents to reinforce the vital partnership between school and home. Each student is also assigned a Business Mentor to support them at their work placement setting.





What is CREATE?

Another unique aspect of Studio Schools is the national CREATE skills framework developed by the Studio Schools Trust. This framework has been designed to give young people the key skills to flourish in life and in the world of work.

As students progress through the three levels of the CREATE framework, they are regularly assessed by Personal and Learning Coaches to ensure they are on track and making progress. There are three levels in the CREATE framework:

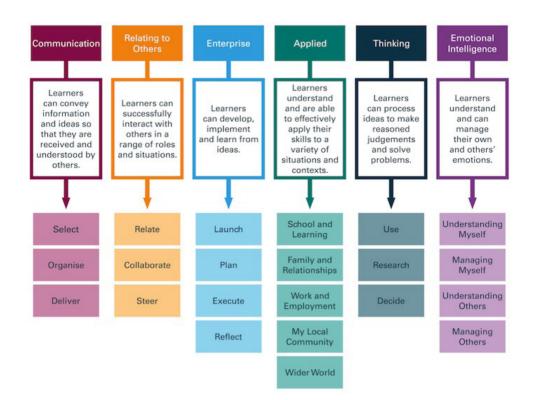
Apprentice Expert Coach

Students develop from Apprentice to Expert before finally becoming a Coach.

Each level is used to indicate a student's level of skill in each of the six areas of the CREATE framework. These areas are:

Communication
Relating to Others
Enterprise
Applied
Thinking
Emotional Intelligence







Wow! Studio West really is different! But will it be right for my son or daughter?

Different children have different styles of learning. Our unique approach suits young people who learn best when their learning is active and practical and clearly linked to the real world, including the workplace.

Our programmes are designed individually for each student to ignite their desire to learn, develop independence and give them the confidence to develop a successful career. In all of this students will be guided and encouraged by their own personal coach.

If you do not feel your child is fulfilling their true potential now, then the Studio West approach may be just what they need to bring out the best in them

Studio West is an option for young people of any family in the area who consider that we are the best choice for the next stage of their education, whether that is Key Stage 4 or Sixth Form.



Why should I move to Studio West now?

Across the country other studio schools do not take students below Year 10, but in many secondary schools in our area, students begin GCSE and other Key Stage 4 courses in Year 9. Therefore, the best time to transfer would be at the start of Year 9.

Studio West would be an especially interesting option for the families of children in the final year of Middle School to consider.

"I think this will be a great opportunity for my son. I really like the idea of smaller classes with a personal coach to support his work and a business environment is what he needs."

Mrs. D Ruddick, parent



Here's our curriculum



Studio West promotes educational culture which is creative, scientific, technological, enterprising and occupational. We aim to provide our students with the skills needed to progress to employment, apprenticeships, further or higher education according to their individual abilities, aptitudes and ambitions.

We raise standards through the use of innovative project based Teaching and Learning strategies for all students, across all abilities, leading to whole school improvement and performance.

Through business and community partnerships and the harnessing of new technologies we prepare young people for the challenges of the 21st century, challenges which include rapid scientific, social and occupational change.

Studio West will develop as a centre of excellence, contributing to, and supporting the development of new ideas, which will generate a spirit of innovation and enterprise, and therefore raising expectations and achievement. Studio West inspires students to learn, enjoy and keep learning throughout their lives.

Studio West provides an academically excellent curriculum based around a core of 8/9 GCSEs including English, Mathematics and Dual Science at Key Stage 4. At Post 16 students will work towards AS/A levels, BTECs and two days work placement, many of them paid.



Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Students of all abilities follow a programme at the level appropriate to their needs but which stretches and challenges enabling them to reach their full potential, progress to the next level and fulfill their career goals. Key Stage 4 students follow the National Curriculum entitlement with a core curriculum of GCSE Mathematics, English and Dual Science. Please see Pre 16 Studio West Curriculum Model for more information.

Those students who have a strong academic ability in all or the majority of subjects undertake a suite of 9 GCSE/BTEC Level 2 qualifications.

Students who are borderline (predicted C/D for their GCSEs) study Maths, English, and Dual Science at GCSE with additional time provided for these subjects together with a further 2 or 3 GCSE/BTEC Level 2 qualifications.

Those who have been identified as needing extra support with their Maths and English have additional time and Support Coach input during the lessons. They also have a reduced menu of 1 or 2 GCSE/BTEC Level 2 qualifications.

Students have the opportunity to learn through a combination of academic core subjects supported by occupational pathways and underpinned with the CREATE framework (please see page 3 of 'Why choose a Studio School') of transferable skills in an exclusive environment where business leaders and students work side by side.



Students have the opportunity to apply what they learn in their academic and occupational studies to real business contexts. Outstanding teaching equips students with the required skills that will help them to achieve high academic success and meet the needs of employers.

Students solve real problems from employers in weekly, fortnightly and half-termly employer-led projects, keeping them motivated and engaged in the curriculum. Some of the projects will also give Pre 16 and Post 16 students the opportunity to work together.

Post 16 Curriculum

A differentiated Post 16 programme offers students individual pathways and those who have a strong academic ability, having achieved good grades in their GCSEs including Maths and English, will progress to either 2 or 3 AS/BTEC courses in addition to the two days of work placement.

Those students who achieved lower grades in their GCSEs and particularly Maths and/or English will progress on to either a Level 2 or a Level 3 occupational programme and will spend more time on developing their Maths and/or English skills to ensure they reach the minimum acceptable standards.

Learning is active, stimulating and draws on the very best practice in academic, occupational and technical learning. Additional tuition will be provided for students who are underachieving in Maths and/or English drawing on the expertise that the sponsor has in this area.



To enhance the curriculum, an Enrichment Programme is embedded into the timetable. The enrichment opportunities provide students with unique experiences, aligned to their project work, which raise aspirations and continue to develop experiential learning. A Studio West student will emerge with a portfolio of accredited qualifications and transferable skills that will allow them to contribute to the regional, national and international economy.

A curriculum of choices

In this pack you will find copies of our Pre 16 and Post 16 curriculum models. These models show the choices that are available for our students and the levels of paid work placement and Project Based learning at each Key Stage.

How much learning is Project-Based?

Enquiry and enterprise-based projects are at the heart of the learning experience and form between 8% and 28% (all depending on additional studies) of the timetable for Post 16 learners depending on their individual needs and abilities and over 50% of the curriculum time for Pre 16 learners.

Projects at Post 16 bring to life the core subjects and students' occupational choices, developed with the work placement providers to maximise and embed learning opportunities. At Pre 16 students get the opportunity to work individually, in small groups or in teams as the projects are developed by local employers, subject specialists, local community groups and other organisations. The projects are planned, structured and differentiated, promoting practical, multi-disciplinary collaborative outcomes, which consider issues relevant to our community.



Progression

Our learning environment ensures employment opportunities are aligned to progression routes through the Studio West curriculum programme. It operates with two seamless pathways at Pre 16 and Post 16 providing for all levels of learning. We provide clear progression routes into Higher Education too, and our partner University (Northumbria) provide pathways to foundation and undergraduate degree programmes for Studio West students.

Dress Code

Students are expected to dress smartly as they will be working towards apprenticeships, higher education or work. Both Pre and Post 16 students are expected to wear branded Studio West casual business wear at all times. It is the outward face we present to the community, and we expect students to wear sensible and appropriate dress without fashion accessories - this includes hairstyle and footwear.

Attendance

Attendance is key in securing the high standards that Studio West is committed to. It is recognised that the quality of Teaching and Learning is linked to attendance and this is why we employ the best Learning Coaches and why we support them with high quality professional development. Responsibility for monitoring attendance lies with the Personal Coaches who are at the heart of the pastoral care of each student.



Connecting to the Real World of Work

Studio West does not feel like a school. It feels more like starting on your dream career! But like your dream employer, we will demand high standards and total commitment.

This business and education collaboration within Studio West greatly enriches the learning experience of the students by:

- Providing a host of opportunities for interaction with one another
- Opportunities beyond the classroom, for easier access to a range of businesses and resources, and for building lasting relationships.
- Working with local employers ensures that the Studio West curriculum is relevant to developing our students' employability skills and ensuring that these fit with local business needs.

Will the students do real work?

In Studio Schools, students will spend a significant portion of their time on real work placements, working as employees in local businesses and, crucially, many students over sixteen will earn a wage. Students in Years 10 and 11 will participate in substantial and relevant work experience, and students in Year 12 and 13 will spend two days per week in work for a portion of the year. There is considerable evidence that this direct, 'hands on' experience better prepares young people for life and work.

Are Employers Involved with Studio West?

Are Employers Involved with Studio West?

"Of course, the studio school concept will only work as a two-way relationship with local employers. It is vital that employers reciprocate the efforts of Studio West and offer some benefits. At Scarlet Band, we would be able and very willing to offer your students work placements and, in the case of engineering students, apprenticeships."

Graeme Torrance, Owner and Director, Scarlet Band Coach and Bus Ltd.

One of the key areas, which makes Studio West different from traditional schools is the strong links we have with employers. From the outset, local companies and organisations have been involved in the shaping of the Studio School in order to make it a place that businesses would choose their future workforce from

Local businesses are linked to and potentially located within the Studio School, providing real-time business activity to compliment each student's studies and developing the business awareness and knowledge that will enable each student to explore their own potential to be an entrepreneur.

By developing numeracy, literacy and personal skills in a more work-like environment, each young person will have improved career options and a better chance of achieving their career goals.



Students work on real, commercial assignments, developing the skills to be effective, motivated employees through the supportive and creative environment of Studio West and with the guidance and experience provided by the business mentors.

A Dat at Studio West

Work placements are suited to the strengths and aspirations of the student and linked to employment opportunities in the local area.

A school day similar to that of a working day

Studio West's school day and terms are designed to be more in line with a workplace environment, operating from 8:30am to 4.30pm and throughout 48 weeks of the year. This means that students will have much more time than a traditional school year to benefit from the wider opportunities on offer, in terms of an extensive curriculum, work placements, recreational and enrichment activities.

A Day in the Life of...

8:00am

Kate is a 17-year-old girl from Kenton Bar, Newcastle. This morning she is on the bus into West Denton with her friends Jade and Matt. They are talking about the previous day when Kate spent the day at Accenture (UK) on a guided tour of the software development suite as part of her A Level Computing course. When she gets to Studio West, Kate has time for breakfast in the Business Cafe with Studio West business partners.



8:30am

As Project Manager for her team, Kate has to do a presentation about the visit to Accenture from the previous day. She's already uploaded her photographs and observations into a PowerPoint presentation and she puts it on the digital smartboard in the classroom for everyone to see. The presentation goes well and the team are enthusiastic to hear about solving the difficulties for their project brief. Kate divides the group into four teams and gives them tasks relating to the project.

11:45am

Kate meets Matt and Jade in the Business Cafe for lunch. They have a discussion about the progress of their project and Jade jokingly mentions that Matt's team have already overspent on their budget!

12:30pm

After lunch Kate has personalised learning. Kate chose Mathematics A Level because it was her favourite subject at school and she achieved well at GCSE level. Her friends are spending their time on different courses. Jade has French A -Level because she has hopes of working in Europe as an Engineering Project Manager. She also knows that Matt has chosen to catchup on his GCSE English because he did not do so well in his exam and he knows how important it is for his future in creating detailed and comprehensive project reports.



2:30pm

Kate's timetable for the rest of the day is 2 hours of project time. This is a great opportunity to continue with the work she started with her team in the morning and makes real progress on their project.

4:30pm

Before finishing for the day Kate checks her emails and timetable reminders. She's got some project work to finish so she uploads her latest report about Accenture to her 'cloud' account on the Virtual Learning Environment. This means she can access it from home without having to worry about losing her memory stick! Feeling prepared for tomorrow, Kate logs off and meets Jade and Matt for the journey home.



What enrichment and recreation opportunities will there be?

All of our students have the opportunity to participate in a wide programme of sport, leisure and creative arts activities, provided in a range of settings, including the extensive facilities available on site.

Some activities provide students with the opportunity to continue with aspects of their studies or pursue a specific area of personal interest, for example First Aid qualifications or the Duke of Edinburgh Award. There are also opportunities for students to participate in various educational visits, both residential and non-residential.

Enrichment opportunities provide skills and experiences to enhance personal development, to ensure that each student is able to realise his or her full potential and achieve positive progression into further study or into employment.

All our students are encouraged to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. Through this scheme, students acquire personal and developmental skills in a wide range of areas, such as working in the community, volunteering, physical activities and team building.



We understand the importance of providing a healthy environment and access to activities and services which help to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle. We provide a range of opportunities to adopt positive health choices and for students to play a part in planning and developing the school's activities and services.

Enrichment activities include:

- Languages
- Sport (there is a superbly equipped sports centre on site)
- Enterprise activities
- Personalised intervention programme
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- First Aid in the Workplace
- Arts Award



Here's how to apply



How Do I Apply for a Place at Studio West?

Admissions at Key Stage 4

We are an inclusive school and do not stipulate formal entry requirements at Key Stage 4. The qualities that are vital for Studio West are:

- Enthusiasm
- Commitment
- Determination

What we are looking for are young people who want to work hard and who will make full use of the approach to learning that we offer. Newcastle City Council will allocate places using their admissions policy. The new intake of students will receive a congratulatory letter from the Principal and will be invited to take part in induction activities, meet the staff and make friends with the rest of their year group.

Admissions at Post 16

All students wanting to join Year 12 will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss why they would like to become a member of the school, what they have achieved so far and entry requirements, which help us to make sure that students embark on a pathway which meets their needs and lead to successful outcomes. If a student is accepted on a Post 16 course and does not have a grade C or above in English and/ or Mathematics we will help them to achieve or work towards achieving this goal.



Applications for Year 9 for September 2015

All applications for a place at Studio West for Year 9 should be made through the local authority application process using the common application form provided on their website **www.newcastle.gov.uk/school-admissions** or the equivalent in your own local authority (if you live outside Newcastle); this ensures that all applicants can select their alternative options at the same time.

Parents wishing to apply for a place at Studio West should complete and return the form by the required date (31st October 2014).

Applications for Y12 (Sixth Form) for September 2015

Students and their families should make Y12 Sixth Form applications directly to Studio West as soon as possible or by 31 January 2015.

Any applications received after that date will be considered, but after those that were in on time. Successful applicants (and unsuccessful if any) will be contacted in writing by the end of February 2015.



Students or their families who wish to apply or to discuss making an application for Studio West can do so in any of the following ways:

Either: Telephone 0191 2142212 for a personal discussion with the Principal;

Or: Visit the Studio West website at **studiowestnewcastle.com** or Kenton School website (sponsor of Studio West) at **kenton.newcastle.sch.uk**, download the application form and read further details. You can also request an appointment online to discuss the matter with the Principal

Or: Visit Studio West reception and pick up a Prospectus and/ or make an application using one of our computers and/or make an appointment to discuss the matter with the Principal;

Or: Write to:

Ms Val Wigham Principal Studio West c/o Kenton School Drayton Road Newcastle upon Tyne

NE3 3RU



Published Admission Number (PAN)

In September 2015 Studio West will be admitting students into Year 9 and Year 12

In 2015 we have 60 places for students in Year 9 and 40 places for students in Year 12.

The Studio School will reach full capacity (310 students) in 2017. As a transitional measure the PAN at Years 9 & 12 will be lower in the first year as shown in the table overleaf. In 2015, Studio West will admit external students only into the Sixth Form (Y12).

In 2016 and 2017, Year 12 will comprise both internal students transferring from Year 11 and external applicants. Assuming that 75% of Studio West's own Year 11 students progress into the Sixth form, the PAN is the number of places reserved for external applicants.



The table shows the numbers expected in Studio West by year group from 2014 to 2017, when the school is planned to reach full capacity. The numbers in bold underlined are the PANs:

	2015	2016	2017
Year 9	60	60	60
Year 10	40	60	60
Year 11	40	40	60
Year 12	40	65 (PAN 35)	65 (PAN 35)
Year 13	40	40	65
Total	220	265	310



Will my son or daughter get a place at Studio West?

Year 9 and Year 10

Where fewer applications than the published admission number(s) are received, Studio West will offer places to all those who have applied.

Year 12

Both internal and external pupils wishing to enter year 12 will be accepted onto specific courses of study which may have minimum entry requirements published in the Prospectus. If applicants fail to meet these minimum course requirements they will be given the option of pursuing alternative courses for which they do meet the minimum requirements. The minimum course entry requirement to follow a Level 3 programme is 5A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths. Where students have these qualifications except English or Maths (or both) they may begin the programme but must also take Level 2 courses in these qualifications.

If there are fewer applications than the published admission number, Studio West will offer places to all those who apply. If there are more external applicants that satisfy the entry requirements than the number of Year 12 places available, the oversubscription criteria will apply.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

All students who have a statement of Special Educational Needs, which names Studio West on the statement, will have automatic entitlement to a place at the Studio School and will be admitted before all other applicants.



Oversubscription criteria for Studio West

Where there are more applications for admission than places available, the following oversubscription criteria, in the order shown will be used to determin which students will be allocated places.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs, where the school is named in the statement, will be admitted to that school.

Places will be offered to applicants ranked highest using the criteria set out below:

- Looked After Children in the care of a local authority or children that were looked after by the local authority and immediately after that became subject to an adoption, residence or special quardianship order.
- 2. Children who have a brother or sister (a sibling) who will be attending the school at the time of admission. Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent or carer's partner where the children live at the same address.
- Children living nearest to the school. Measurement is the straight line distance from the front reception entrance of the school to a point in the centre of the home address of the child's main residence at the closing date for applications.



Tie-Break

In the event that more than one child has an equal right to an available place, the school will use random allocation as a tie-break.

Parental Responsibility

Parents who share responsibility for the care of their child are expected to reach agreement to a school placement between them. In the event of a dispute the school will accept the application from the parent who receives, or is eligible for, the payment of the child benefit.

Late Applications

Applications received after the closing date of the admissions window (31st October for Year 10 and 31st January for Year 12) may only be considered after those applicants who have applied on time and if places have not been allocated. A late application will not affect the right of appeal or the right to be placed on the waiting list.

Following the admissions closing date any late applicants will be allocated a place in the order in which the applications are received, if the School has places available.



Waiting Lists

Where, in any year, Studio West receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until 31 December of the same year. The waiting list will be maintained by Studio West and it will be open to any parent to ask for their child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

Position on the waiting list and allocation of places will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria outlined above. When a place becomes available, the name at the top of the list will be automatically contacted.

Appeals

If your child is not offered a place at Studio West you have the right to appeal. You must write to the School stating that you wish to appeal and the forms will be sent to you directly. To request an appeals form, you should write to:

Studio West, c/o Kenton School Drayton Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3RU

Studio West appeals process is compliant with the School Admission Appeals Code. Studio West will arrange for an Independent Appeals Panel to consider the reasons for refusal and your reasons for wanting to attend Studio West.



The panel will consist of three people (two will have education experience and one will be an independent person with no education experience). The panel will consider the case put forward. It must consider the admission arrangements for Studio West and the reasons why you want to attend this particular school. The panel must exercise its discretion by balancing the weight of arguments.

Studio West will provide Parents / Carers with the right to attend the Appeals Panel meeting in person, notification of the appeal date will be sent at least fourteen days prior to the hearing.

The decision of the Independent Appeals Panel is binding on both Studio West and the student/parents.

Withdrawal of an offer of a place

Studio West may withdraw an offer of a place where a parent fails to respond to an offer within a reasonable timescale (normally fourteen days from receipt of the offer) or the place was offered on the basis of a fraudulent or misleading application.

Safeguarding

Student safety and well-being is paramount. We are required to take any reasonable action to ensure the safety of our students. If teaching or non-teaching staff are concerned that one of our students may be subject to ill-treatment, neglect or any form of abuse, then we will inform the designated Safeguarding Officer at Studio West. Our policy is consistent with national standards for safeguarding procedures.



Your current school year at September 2014	Year 8	Year 11
Apply for Year 9 entry between September and December	2014	
APPLY FOR YEAR 12 ENTRY BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER		2014
YOU WILL START AT STUDIO WEST IN SEPTEMBER	2015	2015