

Tuesday, 1 September 2020

## WELCOME BACK TO CLASS

Academy Arts Theatre School- Coronavirus guidance information

### Welcome back to the Academy Arts Theatre School.

It's been a long time since we have been able to work practically in class on anything resembling live theatre and we hope you are as excited as we are to be back doing what we love. We want this experience to be fun, enriching and as enjoyable and stress free as possible. That being said, however, there are still government guidelines in place to protect us all and we would like to take this opportunity to go through the procedures and protocols in place to keep everybody safe and healthy throughout this term. This document is for all classes and we will send out a separate document that is specific to each class/bubble in addition to this.

**WEBSITE:** Please can all our members go to our website [www.academyarts.co.uk](http://www.academyarts.co.uk) and join as a 'member'. We also ask that you download the app **WIX** as this can be linked to the website and 'Chat' can go directly to Academy Arts staff. It also means if there are last minute bits of information or changes we can add it to the app and website rather than individually texting and emailing everyone (*look at us breaking into the 21st century!!*)

**UNIFORM:** The uniform site which can be accessed via our website will be live in the next couple of days. Academy Arts uniform is compulsory and consists of Black Academy Arts T-shirt, bottoms, hoodie/jacket and dance shoes. The dance shoe site is already live so you can order them now using the discount code on our uniform website page. FM Branding, who will be supplying our uniform were furloughed and have only just gone back to work and have a backlog of work. Once the site is live you will be able to buy leggings, crop tops, bottles, cups, onesies, joggers, hoodies, zip hoodies, caps, t-shirts and you will also be able to have the logo in glitter and also add your nicknames to them should you want to. (Remember if you add your name you can't return it if it doesn't fit or sell it on once you've grown out of it.... However if you do get your nickname added your teachers will learn your names quicker!!!! Until you have new uniform please wear all black to class. Black Dance shoes are compulsory. Please ensure you have a hoodie as we will be opening as many windows and doors as possible to help airflow.

Now the boring but essential bit.....

### BEFORE ARRIVAL

If you or anyone in your family has had any of the following symptoms then please do not attend the Academy Arts classes.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhoea

As much as this would be a disappointing blow it is vital that we all keep this experience as safe as possible for the young people attending and by joining in while you are displaying symptoms, you put others in jeopardy. Please stay away if this is the case.

#### UPON ARRIVAL

When you first arrive at class there are several steps we ask you to go through.

- Students must arrive in their uniform and dance shoes. We would like them to bring as little as possible with them.
- For the time being there is no tuck shop at any of the venues and therefore the children may bring their own snack and a labelled bottle of water to use in class.
- We will be operating in accordance with the 'drop off' scheme. Parents will not be permitted for the time being into the buildings. If you have any questions for staff you will have to wait until everyone has left and speak to the staff member outside or alternatively (and preferably) contact us outside of class time by phone or email.
- Please line up outside your class entrance at the time specified. Your teacher will come out and escort you in to the building. Whilst waiting outside we ask that you please maintain sensible social distancing rules and stay at least 2m apart from those outside your family.
- Once you are called forward you will register with a member of our staff .
- Students will be asked to wipe down their hands with antibacterial hand wash.
- Those over the age of 11yrs will be asked to bring a mask with them to wear during certain exercises and to be worn in communal areas (Zinc Arts atrium)
- The students will leave their belongings (small bag/lunch/drink) either socially distanced around the room they are in or in an allocated room directed by the staff.
- The students will be put into 'bubbles' of no more than 15 for the term. These bubbles will be allocated by age. We will do our best to put friendship groups together but please understand that it is incredibly difficult for us to facilitate this.
- The students will stay in these bubbles for the foreseeable future or until the guidelines change for theatre schools. The students will also have their breaks in the room they are in.
- The staff will rotate to the different bubbles rather than the children moving rooms.
- The details you gave us upon registration will be kept by both Academy Arts in order to fulfil our responsibilities to the track and trace system.

#### WHAT TO BRING?

Although we ask that those taking part bring as little as possible with them, there are, however, some things that are necessary.

Please bring:

- Drink (*Please name your bottle*)
- Snacks
- Face mask (*for all students over 11yrs*)
- A pen/ pencil and pad to make notes on
- If during this term we work on any text/song words etc we will send these out via email for you to print off at home. We will also have words available for those that cannot print them off but this does of course increase the risk of virus transition. Please put your name on your scripts/words and do not share them with anyone.

Please Do Not Share Snacks Or Drinks.

## CLASS PROCEDURES

**SOCIAL DISTANCING:** All work carried out throughout term will be socially distanced. Guidelines now allow for singing as long as social distancing procedures are in effect but we will be careful that this is not at extreme volumes and singing will only take place with the children all facing the same way.

**TEACHER:** The staff will rotate to the different groups and therefore will have to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Teaching staff will have visors to wear for some aspects of the class and also masks for others.

**FACE MASKS:** Face masks are mandatory for over 11's in communal spaces but are not mandatory in class. They would however be useful for some rehearsals to maximise safety.

**TOUCHING SURFACES:** We ask that participants please refrain from leaning on or touching interior surfaces wherever possible. We know this is difficult to maintain and staff will be vigilant to help students remember but it is important, as all surfaces touched need to be wiped down and cleaned thoroughly between sessions.

**BREAK TIMES:** There will be a fifteen-minute break during the class. The students will stay in their studio during breaks. During this time social distancing must also be observed. Staff will still be on hand to monitor this.

**TOILET BREAKS:** All students must ask to leave to use the toilet and only one student at a time will be allowed to leave class to use the rest room to ensure social distancing.

**AFTER CLASS:** We ask all parents and those collecting students to wait outside the buildings. Those collecting students will not be allowed access to the hall.

## **DISCLAIMER**

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unexpected and profound impact on all of our daily lives and our businesses. COVID-19 has changed a lot about the way we at Academy Arts do business and the ways in which we interact with our students.

While much uncertainty and apprehension around COVID-19 remains, we do know that COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. It may also spread by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes. Some evidence suggests that COVID-19 can live on certain surfaces for several days.

As with any activity, there is a risk that you could contract COVID-19 while participating in our summer school.

At Academy Arts, we have implemented various preventative measures aimed to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19 among our students and employees, however, we can not guarantee or warrant against the risk of infection.

None of the information provided above is intended as medical advice. This Notice and Disclaimer is intended as a warning to our customers of the risk of contracting COVID-19, a disclaimer of our liability and the liability of our students associated therewith, and an explanation of some of the things we're doing to mitigate the risk of the spread of COVID-19, as well as some of the things we believe our students can do to help.

Academy Arts reserves the right to refuse entry to anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or for any reason deemed necessary by our staff. Academy Arts reserves the right to shut down the school entirely if deemed necessary by our principal Nina Jones. In both situations no refund or credit will be returned.

(Sept 28th 2020 - Amendment: In the event of another national lockdown Academy Arts will as before produce classes online)

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us: [info@academyarts.co.uk](mailto:info@academyarts.co.uk).

Many thanks

*Academy Arts Theatre School*