



AKS Lytham

PERFORMING ARTS



AKS DRAMA

ENCORE



SCHOLARS' PROGRAMME

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HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION



At AKS Lytham, we believe that drama has the power to inspire, challenge and transform young people. Through performance, creativity and collaboration, students develop confidence, resilience and communication skills that support success both on and off the stage.

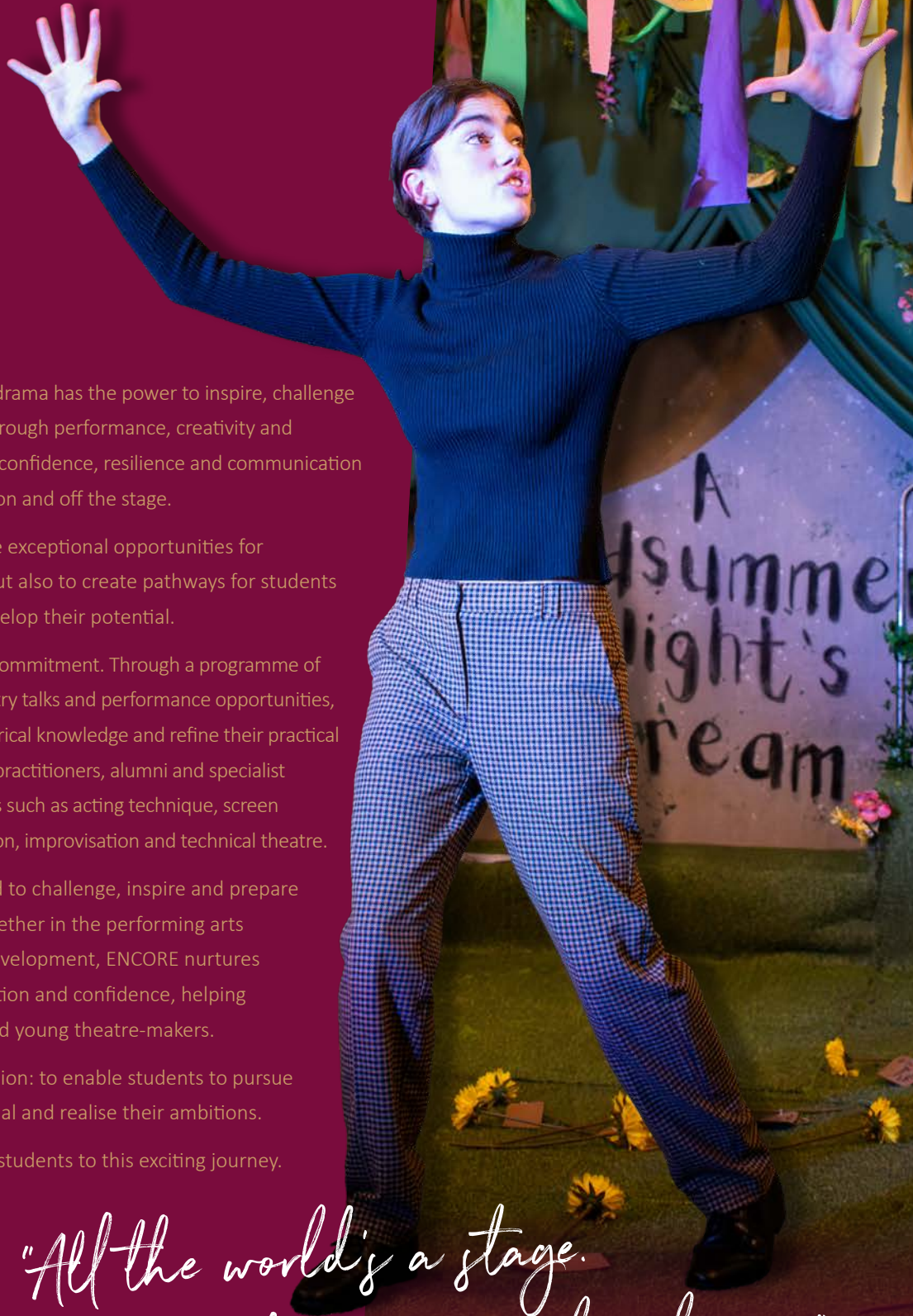
Our vision is not only to provide exceptional opportunities for participation and enjoyment, but also to create pathways for students with talent and ambition to develop their potential.

ENCORE sits at the heart of this commitment. Through a programme of workshops, masterclasses, industry talks and performance opportunities, students will broaden their theatrical knowledge and refine their practical skills. Working with professional practitioners, alumni and specialist educators, they will explore areas such as acting technique, screen performance, audition preparation, improvisation and technical theatre.

These experiences are designed to challenge, inspire and prepare students for future success, whether in the performing arts or beyond. Alongside artistic development, ENCORE nurtures leadership, creativity, collaboration and confidence, helping students grow into well-rounded young theatre-makers.

ENCORE reflects our wider mission: to enable students to pursue their passion, fulfil their potential and realise their ambitions.

I am delighted to welcome our students to this exciting journey.



*"All the world's a stage.
And all the men and women merely players"*

HEAD OF DRAMA

As Head of Drama at AKS, I am proud to introduce ENCORE, a programme designed to enhance and enrich the dramatic experiences of our students. While providing additional opportunities for Drama and Performing Arts Scholars, ENCORE's impact will extend across the wider school community, helping to foster creativity, confidence and excellence within our performance culture.

The programme offers a diverse range of workshops, masterclasses, industry talks and performance opportunities, covering acting technique, audition preparation, screen performance, improvisation, technical theatre and careers within the creative industries.

ENCORE reflects our belief that drama should be both inclusive and aspirational. By providing students with opportunities to develop their skills, broaden their experiences and learn from industry professionals, we aim to inspire every individual to grow as a performer, collaborator and communicator, while developing the confidence and creativity to realise their ambitions.



**For further details, please contact
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OUR VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGY

ENCORE is an educational enrichment programme designed to develop the theatrical knowledge and practical skills of AKS students.

OUR VISION: to enhance and develop the provision of drama at AKS Lytham so that students grow into well-rounded dramatists. We are committed not only to meaningful participation and creative engagement for all, but to the deliberate development of performance technique, collaborative and social skills and a breadth of experience that extends far beyond simply treading the boards. We aim to enable young theatre-makers to fulfil their potential and realise their ambitions.

OUR MISSION: to establish AKS as the school of choice for drama and performance in the local area, while increasing our visibility and reputation at regional and national level through productions, showcases and partnerships. We are committed to creating an environment in which every student can experience enjoyment, inspiration and achievement in theatre, regardless of their starting point, whether they are discovering drama for the first time or already demonstrating exceptional promise.

OUR STRATEGY:

E

EXPLORATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Through established links with university theatre courses and leading drama institutions, ENCORE supports students in understanding audition processes, portfolio requirements and training pathways, enabling them to make informed decisions about their future study.

N

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Students will work collaboratively with current industry professionals through workshops, talks and rehearsals, broadening their awareness of contemporary practice while building confidence in professional communication.

C

CAREER PATHWAYS

We will provide students with the opportunity to explore the wide range of careers connected to performance, including acting, directing, design, production arts management and other creative industries, encouraging ambition and informed career planning.

O

OFFSTAGE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Students' overall understanding of performance will be widened through directing, stage management, technical theatre, marketing and production responsibilities, ensuring they appreciate theatre and performance as a collaborative art form beyond performing alone.

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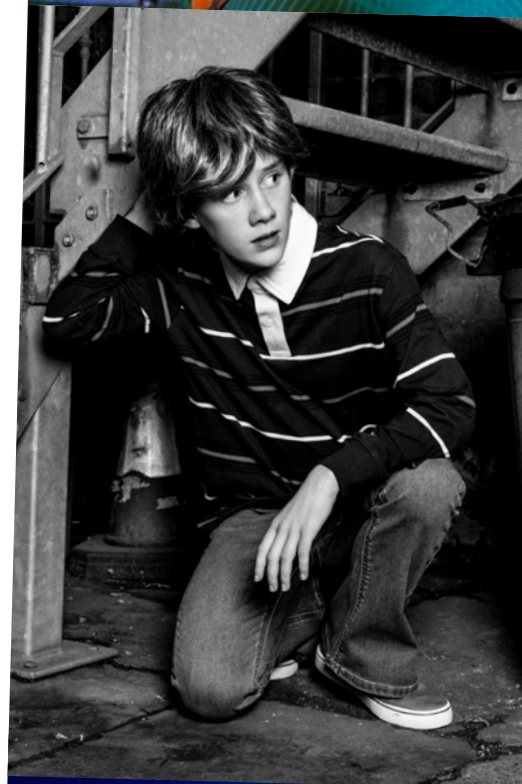
REFINEMENT OF PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUE

Through practical workshops, rehearsals and showcases students will strengthen vocal, physical and interpretive skills, supported by structured feedback and reflective practice.

E

EXPRESSIVE AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Students will develop oracy, communication, collaboration and a resilient mindset, cultivating transferable skills that underpin success both within the creative industries and far beyond them.



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW 2026

SCHOLARS' BREAKFAST

07/09/2026

An opportunity for all Drama and Performing Arts Scholars to meet in the Drama Studio at the start of the academic year, where the department will present AKS ENCORE and the 2026–2027 co-curricular programme.



MASTERING THE MONOLOGUE

01/10/2026



Through practical exploration, students will experiment with individual skill to create engaging solo performances. The workshop encourages creative decision-making, helping students consider character, intention and audience impact.

THE ART OF HEADSHOTS

07/10/2026

Working alongside a professional photographer, students will take part in a headshot workshop designed to develop their understanding of professional self-presentation. The session will cover costume, make-up, positioning, expression and lighting techniques.



DEVELOPING THE DUOLOGUE

08/10/2026

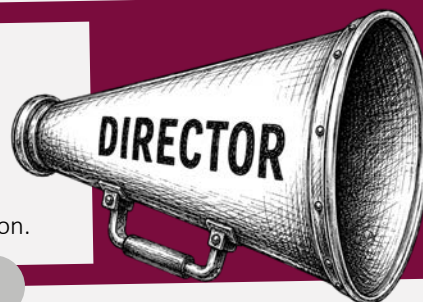


Using sight-unseen duologues, students will explore the dynamics of stage partnership through interaction and reaction. The workshop will focus on character relationships, while developing confidence in making effective performance choices.

RESPONDING TO REDIRECTION

05/11/2026

Students will explore how to respond effectively to direction, developing skills in active listening, adaptability and creative problem-solving. Through practical exercises, they will apply feedback and refine characterisation, staging and dramatic tension.



OPEN REHEARSAL

12/11/2026



An optional rehearsal session for students preparing for the Scholars' and Sixth Form Showcase. Students can use this time to refine their performances, receive feedback and explore final performance choices in a supportive rehearsal environment.

DRAMA SCHOOL DIARIES

10/12/2026

A workshop led by a former AKS student, exploring actor training, rehearsal processes, audition preparation and professional performance. Students will gain insight into pathways within the industry and develop their understanding of the skills and experiences needed for further training and performance.

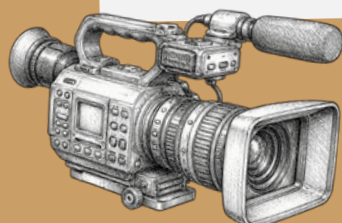
14th Nov
Scholars'
Showcase

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW 2027

DRAMA SCHOOL DIARIES

07/01/2027

A workshop led by a former AKS student, exploring actor training, rehearsal processes, audition preparation and professional performance. Students will gain insight into pathways within the industry and develop their understanding of the skills and experiences needed for further training and performance.



11/02/2027

SUCCESSFUL SELF-TAPES

A workshop focused on creating successful self-tapes for drama school auditions, castings and other performance opportunities. Students will explore practical approaches to preparing material, filming effective self-tapes, making strong acting choices on camera and presenting themselves confidently in an audition setting.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

11/03/2027

A workshop exploring careers within the film and television industry, with a focus on the skills and techniques required for successful on-screen performance. Students will gain insight into professional working practices, including developing naturalistic performances and adapting acting choices for camera.



29/04/2027

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

A workshop exploring careers within the creative industries, offering students insight into professional life in the arts, potential career pathways and the skills needed for success. The session will include discussion, practical activities and opportunities for students to ask questions about training and employment.

YEAR 11 AND YEAR 13 BREAK-A-LEG BREAKFAST

04/05/2027

An opportunity for Year 11 and 13 Drama and Performing Arts Scholars to celebrate their achievements and contributions to the department before study leave. Students will reflect on their experiences within the department and provide feedback for the future.



THE LITTLE IMPROV

06/05/2027

A workshop focused on developing improvisation skills through a range of fun, fast-paced and collaborative activities. Students will explore spontaneity, creativity, character development, storytelling and ensemble communication, while building confidence in performance and learning to respond instinctively.



THE BIG IMPROV

24/06/2027

A large-scale improvisation featuring two guided scenarios. Students from across the year groups will work collaboratively in role, developing their ability to sustain characterisation over an extended period of time while responding spontaneously to evolving situations.



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COMMITMENT, EXPECTATIONS AND FUTURE PATHWAYS



ENCORE is built on a shared commitment between the school, students and parents. The school provides opportunities, students engage fully with the programme and parents support and encourage their son/daughter's involvement.

For students, this means taking an active role in workshops, performances and events, while approaching every opportunity with enthusiasm, commitment and creativity.

For parents, it means encouraging participation and working in partnership with the school to support their son/daughter's development and enjoyment of drama.

ENCORE is a key part of our vision for Drama at AKS. Alongside productions, enrichment opportunities and the Drama and Performing Arts Scholarship Programme, it helps ensure students have access to a broad and ambitious range of experiences.

Above all, ENCORE celebrates the journey of creative growth. The confidence, communication skills, friendships and experiences students gain through the programme will stay with them long after they leave AKS, regardless of the path they choose to follow.

2026

MUSICAL



Launch: September
Auditions: September
Rehearsals: October to January
Performances:
 21st, 22nd and 23rd January 2027
 Off and on stage roles available
 to students in Years 7 to 13



SCHOLARS' SHOWCASE

Performance: 19th November

An evening of monologues and duologues performed by Drama and Performing Arts Scholars, showcasing work developed and refined through the ENCORE programme.

KS4/5 PLAY

Launch: September
Auditions: October
Rehearsals: September to March
Performance: 17th March
 Off and on stage roles available
 to students in Years 10 to 13



KS3/4 PLAY

Launch: September
Auditions: October
Rehearsals: September to June
Performance: 24th June
 Off and on stage roles
 available to students
 in Years 7 to 10



THEATRE WORKSHOPS/TRIPS

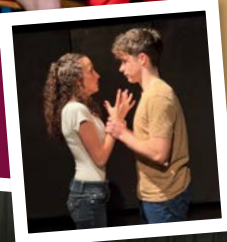


FREE LAMDA Workshop
 September (Year 7)
FREE Musical Workshop
 September (Years 7 to 9)
TPB Theatre Company Workshop
 November (Years 7 to 13)
Legally Blonde the Musical
 10th November (Years 7 to 13)
Mrs Doubtfire the Musical
 16th March (Years 7 to 13)



LAMDA SHOWCASE

Performance: 11th March
 An opportunity for Senior School LAMDA students to share the work they have developed in their lessons.



25th June
 Performing Arts
 Awards Evening

CLUBS



Launch: September

- The Young Theatre Company • The Senior Theatre Company
- Dance Club • Prop Making • Theatre Film Club

2027

ALUMNI ADVOCATES



ROYAL CENTRAL
SCHOOL OF SPEECH & DRAMA
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Oliver Akers

“

As an AKS Drama Scholar, some of my most valuable learning happened beyond the classroom, in rehearsals, workshops and conversations with industry professionals. AKS ENCORE captures that spirit perfectly, creating opportunities for young performers to develop their craft, broaden their horizons and prepare for the next stage of their journey.

”



Alex Winter

“

The opportunities I had through AKS Drama played a huge role in shaping who I am today. AKS ENCORE takes that experience even further, equipping scholars with the skills, confidence and industry awareness needed to thrive both on stage and beyond.

”



AKS Lytham

4

SOLD-OUT SHOWS
SEEN BY 1,800
AUDIENCE
MEMBERS

10

**CHOIR AND MUSIC
ENSEMBLES**

500+

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENTS
ACROSS THE PREP
AND SENIOR SCHOOLS**



20+

**PLAYS, CONCERTS
AND SHOWCASES
ANUALLY**

**DEGREE OFFERS FROM
SPECIALIST INSTITUTIONS
INCLUDING RCSSD, LIPA,
ITALIA CONTI, GUILDHALL**

75%

**LAMDA DISTINCTIONS
ACHIEVED
IN THE SENIOR SCHOOL
IN 2025**

5

**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH EVENTS**



**REIGNING
CHAMPIONS
AJIS CHOIR
OF THE YEAR**



**ANNUAL
SCHOOL
MUSICAL
AT LOWTHER
PAVILION**

100%

**A LEVEL DRAMA
AND MUSIC STUDENTS
ACHIEVED AN
A GRADE IN 2025**



**REGULAR COLLABORATION
WITH INDUSTRY
PROFESSIONALS
THROUGH WORKSHOPS
AND TALKS**



**NATIONAL, EUROPEAN
AND WORLDWIDE VISITS
GERMANY, HOLLAND,
MANCHESTER,
LIVERPOOL, LONDON
EDINBURGH, NYC**

*"The Performing Arts
Department is amazing.
I've loved the
opportunities I've had both
off and on stage."*

Student Comment

*"It's such an inspiring
place to be. You always
feel welcome.
It feels more like a family."*

Student Comment

*"I've really enjoyed the
bonding experience with
other years. But also,
I've loved discovering
more about myself."*

Student Comment

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