

*Pursue your passion*



AKS Lytham

Performing  
Arts at AKS

# Introduction



*"We explore theoretical concepts through practical lessons, using keyboards, ukuleles, guitars and basses in addition to our voices."*

**Adam Brown, Co-ordinator of  
Co-curricular Music**

*"The study of Drama develops verbal and nonverbal, individual and group communication skills which are increasingly essential in the modern world. Drama enhances students' artistic and creative abilities and, through exploration across a range of cultural contexts, gives them a better understanding of themselves and society as a whole."*

**Martha Worthington, Co-ordinator of Drama**



*"We are passionate about developing a love for music and drama, singing proudly and confidently, and inspiring the next creative generation."*

**Dan Thomas, Prep School Music Co-ordinator**



**Our philosophical approach to Performing Arts is student-led and student-centred. We frame everything we do around the interests of our students, whether they decide to pursue a career in the performing arts, like many of our alumni including Jonas Armstrong and Jenna Coleman, or enjoy participating for their own enjoyment.**

We offer a rich diversity of opportunities and with so much going on, students can be involved in performances both in and out of school on a weekly basis and learn transferable skills that are essential for the 21st century.

**Michael Waterhouse**

Director of Performing Arts



**Follow us...**

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 @AKSLythamMusic  
 @AKSSchoolLytham  
 @aksdrama



## AKS Lytham

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# Nursery

Our specialist music teacher brings his enthusiasm for music, singing and exploring sounds during his weekly sessions with Nursery children.

These sessions help the children to build confidence in using their voices, following actions and enjoying moving.

One of the highlights of our Nursery calendar is the Christmas Show, when the children perform for their parents.





## Music

Our aim in Prep School is to build enjoyment of music and listening skills through class singing, a weekly singing assembly.

We have a dedicated specialist music teacher for the Nursery and Prep School who teaches both class lessons and co-curricular clubs.

Infants (Reception to Year 2) play percussion instruments.

Juniors (Years 3 to 6) learn an instrument in class, studying violin, trombone, clarinet and flute with specialist teachers. All children participate in our Giant Prep Orchestra.

Two assemblies are dedicated to music each week, one for singing and another for orchestra practice.



*"My son absolutely loves his music lessons. It was so lovely to see him having fun and joining in all the songs during lockdown when he was accessing them virtually."*

**Prep Parent**



### Co-curricular opportunities:

Our co-curricular music provision in Prep includes choirs and our Giant Prep Orchestra. Additional clubs are set up to support the interests of the children, and have included string and brass ensembles as well as our Year 5 band, who play music from the likes of George Ezra and Coldplay.







*"The Prep School pupils are extremely creative and imaginative – two great qualities that help to make a very gifted performer."*

**Martha Worthington, Co-ordinator of Drama**

## Drama

Prep School Drama lessons build an understanding of how to use our voices and bodies to engage the audience and project different characters.

Our infant children have weekly Drama lessons led by their class teacher.

A specialist drama teacher teaches class lessons from Year 3 to Year 6,

Junior pupils work on expression through monologues, creating freeze frames and showing emotion through facial expressions.

## Co-curricular opportunities:

Group LAMDA lessons are available to all children from Year 1 to Year 6 in the disciplines of Public Speaking, Verse and Prose and Acting.



## PERFORMANCES:

Termly class assemblies and music concerts provide opportunities for pupils to perform individually and as part of ensembles and/or with our 80-piece Giant Orchestra. Our culture of performance is further supported by children having the opportunity to perform at our frequent parent and community events, such as Grandparents' Day, Mothers' Day and our Harvest Festival celebration. Larger events include the Infants' Christmas play, a Year 3 and 4 production and a Year 5 and 6 musical show.



## Music

### LOWER SCHOOL, YEARS 7 to 9

In Lower School, students explore the elements of music, through exposure to a wide and varied number of musical genres as well as gaining practical skills using voice, keyboard, ukulele, and many more instruments. The curriculum builds a thorough understanding and appreciation for music so that students can naturally progress onto the Music GCSE.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL, YEARS 10 to 11 (GCSEs)

Students who choose Music for GCSE learn both theory and practice, as well as developing their performance skills both individually and within groups. The students also develop their skills in composition.



*"AKS Music has a thriving co-curricular programme that offers performance opportunities to all students from all year groups. From the very first day of term in September to the very last day in July, the music department is out in force performing at every possible opportunity."*

**Michael Waterhouse, Director of Performing Arts**





## Drama

### LOWER SCHOOL, YEARS 7 to 9

In Lower School, all students attend weekly Drama lessons. Our classes have a practical focus, allowing students to work closely with their peers in a supportive and friendly environment. The content includes broad introduction to theatre and different staging techniques and acting for screen.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL, YEARS 10 to 11 (GCSEs)

Students who choose Drama for GCSE study set plays, and take roles in scripted performances, as well as creating their own original theatre, making it the perfect choice for anyone wanting to demonstrate and develop their creative flair.



### PERFORMANCES:

We produce at least four large-scale concerts a year, including a whole school musical performed at the Lowther Pavilion, as well as numerous smaller-scale events both in school and the wider community.

Our Monologue Showcase events provide the opportunity for our Middle School students to perform in our Drama Studio and our Guardians of Drama co-curricular group are frequently engaged in performances for the Nursery and Prep School children.

Termly tea-time music concerts for lower and middle schools in our intimate Recital Room provide the opportunity for students to build confidence and experience in performing individually to an audience. Larger concerts take place each term in our Senior School Hall comprising of ensembles and choirs.

*"It's been phenomenal seeing my child grow in confidence through his experiences both on and off the stage. He's made memories which will last a lifetime."*

**Senior School parent**





AKS Sixth Form offers a vibrant and exciting programme of Performing Arts, which allows students to explore their creative potential.

Our A Level courses in Drama and Music explore the subjects from a highly academic perspective, as well as offering the chance to develop exceptional skills in live performance and the devising of original pieces.

The environment in Performing Arts at AKS Sixth Form is welcoming and inclusive, truly offering aspiring actors and musicians the very best chance to flourish.

Students at AKS Sixth Form benefit from excellent facilities, including a Drama Studio, Recording Studio, Recital Room and numerous performance and rehearsal spaces, as well as the chance to work towards graded LAMDA and ABRSM exams with a fantastic team of visiting teachers.

Many past students have gone on to study music at degree level at Russell Group universities and Oxbridge, as well as the UK's top music conservatoires, specialist music colleges and drama schools, as well as achieving great success as professionals in the arts industry.





## Music

Our A Level Music course explores the subject through performing, composing and analysing music. The course involves the in-depth study of a series of 'set works', which provide a comprehensive and fascinating overview of music from the Baroque era, to the modern day.

The varied nature of the course enables students to develop highly desirable skills in areas such as self-management, creativity, data analysis, performance, teamwork, problem-solving, and communication, all of which make them an attractive prospect for potential employers and provides a fantastic basis for study of most subjects at university.

### Co-curricular opportunities:

Students continue to have the opportunity to be involved in the exceptional co-curricular opportunities at AKS throughout their time in the Sixth Form, and often take leading roles in our ensembles, as well as being featured as soloists in our exciting series of concerts and events.



## Drama

Drama at A Level allows students to develop their acting skills, as well as learn about the world of theatre through the study of set plays and by creating original theatre. The course is ideal for anyone wanting to pursue a career in dramatic arts, or those who want to gain exceptional transferrable skills, such as confidence, teamworking and creativity.

Previous Drama students have progressed to university to study the subject, as well as to specialist Drama schools, demonstrating the high standards that our students achieve. Destinations of our past students include Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, and The Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA). Many performers have gone on to star in live theatre performance, as well as appearing in film and television.

A Level Drama students retain a great deal of creative control, and are able to draw upon a working knowledge of different theatre practitioners to enhance their work. In addition to this, our Sixth Form students are encouraged to take a leading role in our productions, acting as role models for younger aspiring performers throughout the school.



### Co-curricular opportunities:

Sixth Form students taking leading roles in concerts, ensembles and plays, as well as in our award-winning annual musical productions held at Lowther Pavilion. These productions are held in a professional setting, allowing students the very best preparation for a future in musical theatre.



## The Guardians of Drama

The Guardians of Drama student-led theatre group create, devise and deliver performances throughout the year, which vary according to student interests. Examples of recent performances include:

**For Nursery and Prep School children:**

*The Grinch*

*Seasonal Flashmobs*

*Book at Bedtime events*

*Alice in Wonderland*

**For parents and our wider community:**

*Matilda mini-musical*

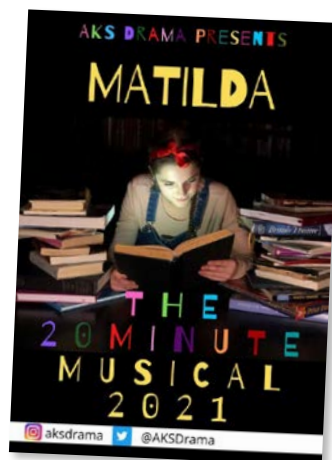
*Sing it! Speak It!*

*Say It! Series*

*Monologue series*

*Encore showcase*

*Cover song challenges*



## LAMDA

Whole-class Drama is supported by the option to take individual tuition from our visiting Speech and Drama teacher, in either one-to-one or small-group lessons following the LAMDA syllabus in verse and prose, acting or public speaking.

We have an outstanding track record of success in LAMDA examinations, with 100% of students in many cohorts achieving Distinctions.



## Brass Ensemble

A chance for the brass ensemble to play together to develop their skills for small scale performances.

## Chamber Choir

Our Chamber Choir is open to students in Year 10 and above and provides the opportunity for students to sing more challenging repertoire with only a few voices per part.

## Choir

Open to all, the choir allows you to sing music of many different types and styles. We prepare for a number of large scale concerts across the year.

## Concert Band

Concert Band is our newest ensemble at AKS. Open to all string, woodwind and brass players we play well known music of an appropriate level in preparation for a number of large scale concerts across the year.

## Debating and Public Speaking

A chance to develop your debating and discussion skills, improve your confidence and preparing yourself to speak in front of other people.

## Flute Ensemble

A chance for all flute plays to play together to develop their ensemble skills.

## Lower School Singing

A singing group for students in the lower school, to continue their singing work from lessons.

## Percussion Ensemble

The percussion ensemble is open to all percussionists and rehearses in preparation for concerts, often collaborating with another ensemble.

## String Ensemble

Our String Group is an exciting ensemble, including experienced string players as well as students who have just started learning their instrument. The group plays a range of repertoire from familiar classical numbers to descriptive programme music and jazzy pieces. This group offers an outstanding opportunity for students to consolidate and extend their bowing techniques in addition to their understanding of playing in a string section.

## Student Bands

We have a number of independently formed student bands who perform at our concerts throughout the school calendar.

## Swing Band

A big band for more advanced musicians, preparing for large school concerts as well as external engagements.



## Ensembles

During co-curricular rehearsals, we embed crucial ensemble skills. Students and staff rehearse and perform together. Students are also encouraged and supported to create their own ensembles and groups.

Our extensive co-curricular programme offers a wide selection of ensembles and groups for students to join: our Giant Prep 80-piece Orchestra; Prep Band; Swing Band; Whole School Choir; Concert Band; Chamber Choir; and Key Stage 3 Singers, as well as smaller groups, such as: Percussion Group; String Group; Woodwind Ensemble; and Brass Ensemble.

## Peripatetic Lessons

Ten peripatetic teachers offer thirty-minute one-to-one teaching across voice, piano, woodwind, brass and string instruments within the school day across Prep, Senior School and Sixth Form.



*"Absolutely beautiful, I was moved to tears."*

**Music concert feedback**



## Trips and tours

Our students regularly attend theatre trips and our music tours take place every two years to Europe and as far afield as America. In 2022, over forty students will travel to the Rhine Valley for a week of performances, fun and the chance to make memories that will last a lifetime.

*"I have never seen anything like this from a school before. Truly magical."*

**Music concert feedback**





# Shows

The highlight of our co-curricular activity is our annual musical.

We stage a full-scale production at Lowther Pavilion each January, giving our students unparalleled insight into the industry, as well as skills and experience that go well beyond that of ordinary in-school productions.

Our students experience the thrill of performing to sell-out audiences using professional sets, costumes and a live band and always receive rave reviews.





*"Our annual professional theatre production creates connections across year groups and elevates the level of performance. Students gain so much from being part of something bigger than themselves, it gives them an incredible sense of achievement and sense of belonging."*

**Martha Worthington, Co-ordinator of Drama**



## A hub for Performing Arts in our community

Our thriving Performing Arts Department also provides a hub for the promotion and enjoyment of music and drama across our local community.

LYTHAM  
PERFORMING  
ARTS  
FESTIVAL


scream  
theatre schools

North Fylde  
Music Circle



PQA  
THE PAULINE QUIRKE  
ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS





Local and regional  
Rotary  
Musician  
of the Year  
(2019/20)

Miranda,  
multi-instrumentalist  
and member of the  
Hallé Youth Choir

*"Such talented  
students and voices  
of angels."*

*"The highlight of my  
time at school has  
been the performing  
opportunities, such as  
the annual musicals."  
J Jay, Class of 2021*

10 student  
concerts  
per annum

*"Absolutely  
beautiful.  
I was moved  
to tears."*

*"Simply exquisite."*

*"I've never seen  
anything like this  
from a school before.  
Truly magical."*

Louis, jazz pianist  
and member of the  
Junior Royal Northern  
College of Music



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**AKS Lytham**



*"The 'Drama Family' as we call it, means the absolute world to me and the memories that we have created throughout the years are ones that I will treasure forever."*

**Niamh, Year 13**

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
AVAILABLE**