



## Aims and Mission Statement

The Young Dancers Academy aims to nurture classical dancers of the future while ensuring each student benefits from a balanced and ambitious academic curriculum.

YDA is a small vocational school providing exceptional training in classical ballet and other forms of dance alongside a rich, stimulating academic curriculum to students aged 11 to 16. The aim of the school is to prepare students for full-time ballet training which is supported by first-rate academic education.

The school does not follow a dance exam syllabus but focuses instead of building technique, versatility and musicality. This provides students the chance to develop as dancers with a real sense of individuality and expression, underpinned by a pure technique. Classes are kept small to ensure each student receives intense training and personal support.

All academic subjects are taught in year groups and core subjects are streamed according to academic ability. Regardless of the student's ability we aim to help each student reach their potential. Careful attention is given to each student to ensure a full and balanced academic curriculum is met. Equal emphasis is placed on vocational and academic studies.

Performance is key to the school's ethos. Students take part in several shows throughout the year and are also chosen to dance with companies such as English National Ballet. Students have the opportunity to perform alongside principals of The Royal Ballet and take part in galas, most recently for The Du Boisson Dance Foundation, whose Honorary patron is Dame Darcey Bussell.

The school's philosophy is to inspire in its students the love of learning, music, and the freedom of expression through dance. Skills gained through encouragement and discipline in the ballet and academic classroom can be applied to all aspects of their lives.