



**FUSING EDUCATION WITH  
THE ARTS**

[WWW.MEPAACADEMY.COM](http://WWW.MEPAACADEMY.COM)





**WHERE EDUCATION  
TAKES THE STAGE TOO**

# TURNING PASSION INTO PROFESSION



# WELCOME FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



It's a real pleasure to welcome you to our vibrant community here at MEPA Academy. Each of us plays a vital role in shaping the success and smooth running of our school, and I'm truly excited to begin this journey with all of you.

At MEPA Academy, our mission is simple but powerful: to ensure every student reaches their full potential in all areas of school life. We strive to equip our young people with real choices and opportunities by the time they reach Year 11—whether they're pursuing further education, apprenticeships, or employment.

Our curriculum is designed to be both engaging and challenging, pushing students to grow in knowledge, confidence, and skill each day. We are committed to providing the right support for every child so they can thrive and achieve their very best.

Beyond the classroom, we work hard to foster a safe, nurturing, and positive environment—one where students feel valued and empowered. We aim to develop confident, capable young people with strong character and a resilient work ethic. In return, we expect our students to match our commitment by embracing these values and rising to the challenges set before them.

Once again, a warm welcome to MEPA Academy. I look forward to working with you and celebrating all the successes we will achieve together.

**Mandy Ellen**  
Principal



**Emma Finch**  
Vice Principal



**Lewis Muir**  
Head of MEPA Academy

# WE ARE OUTSTANDING

IN BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES AND  
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



# DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

These values underpin the life of MEPA Academy.

## Dream

All success stories start with a dream, the aspiration and ambition to succeed. A dream can shape our life choices and lead us down our own paths. We encourage our students to dream of the future and what their stories may be.

## Believe

We all have to believe in ourselves and each other. Taking our dreams and believing in them is the next step to achieving. When we believe, we realise the importance of what we are aiming to achieve and we take the steps, seek the resources, and find the help in order to achieve.

## Achieve

We encourage our students to be determined and motivated in their dreams, believe in them and take the next steps to achieve. Through determination and the belief that we can, even when we get knocked down, we get back up and we can achieve!

Our MEPA Mantra then creates our values underpinning elements. To embody our values, our students have mindfulness and respect, they are enthusiastic and creative, they make progress, raise attainment and they aim high.





# MEET THE TEAM AT MEPA ACADEMY

## SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



**MANDY ELLEN**  
PRINCIPAL



**EMMA FINCH**  
VICE PRINCIPAL



**LEWIS MUIR**  
HEAD OF ACADEMY

## TEACHING STAFF



**LUCY BENARDOUT**  
SENCIO, ENGLISH &  
HISTORY



**CASEY BRETT**  
ART & DESIGN



**TILLY COOK**  
DANCE & MUSICAL  
THEATRE



**JAMES HUGGINS**  
MATHEMATICS



**VICKY GRANT**  
SCIENCE



**DANIEL GREENWAY**  
DANCE



**CHRIS HUNTLEY**  
SINGING & MUSIC



**SILVIA JACKSON**  
MFL

## SUPPORT STAFF



**MARIE QUIBAN**  
ACCOUNTS



**JEMMA CAPON**  
RECEPTIONIST



**SOPHIE MUIR**  
RECEPTIONIST



**ANDREA WROE**  
TEACHING ASSISTANT  
STUDENT SUPPORT

# FUSING EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

At MEPA Academy we are committed to delivering a diverse and high standard of education both academically and vocationally. We aim for the young people in our care to be prepared for life in an industry that can be competitive and fulfilling. We expect our pupils to be committed to all aspects of the education we offer and strive to be the best they can, at all times.

Staff offer many opportunities for the pupils to achieve through high quality teaching in all areas, as well as industry professionals that they can aspire to follow. The pupils are encouraged to be independent, creative, engaged, well-motivated and curious whilst trying activities that are out of their comfort zone and challenge.

Pupil welfare is at the heart of MEPA Academy. Through our nurturing and caring environment, we believe that we can encourage pupils to have a healthy mind which will enable the pupils to achieve the best they can. We encourage all of MEPA, including staff as positive role models, to be respectful, kind and polite and ensure that we all understand that everyone has the right to learn, make progress and achieve.



# OFSTED

Pupils are happy to attend this inclusive and welcoming school. Parents and carers share this enthusiasm for what the school offers to its pupils. They describe the way that their children 'thrive' at the school, valuing the 'safe and supportive' environment and the 'amazing' array of opportunities.

Pupils work hard and are committed to their studies. They behave exceptionally well, treating one another with high levels of respect and kindness. Warm and supportive relationships are consistently enacted between adults and pupils.

Leaders and staff know pupils well. They are ambitious for what pupils can achieve. Pupils readily rise to meet these high expectations, both academically and within the performing arts specialist areas that they learn in abundance. As a result, they achieve well.

Pupils benefit from an extensive range of opportunities beyond their already ambitious curriculum offer. Many, including the most vulnerable, stay after school to attend the large array of classes to further develop their talents and interests in the performing arts. These include a variety of classes in dance, acro and theatre.

**OFSTED REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025**



# OUR CURRICULUM

At MEPA Academy our objective is to provide our students with a balanced curriculum to enable them to achieve their full potential in the time that they are with us. Academic subjects are delivered in the morning session of the school day, with vocational subjects populating the afternoon timetable.

At Key Stage 3 (years 7-8), students study a broad range of subjects to provide them with a varied academic foundation as they prepare for GCSE exams in Key Stage 4. At Key Stage 4 (year 9, 10 and 11), students will study for their GCSE exams. All students will sit Maths, English Language and Literature and Science alongside other specialist subjects such as Music, Art, History etc.

Students receive classes in all genres of the Performing Arts. The aim of these classes is to give each student a strong technical background as well as an up to date and rounded curriculum to prepare them for their onward journey at the end of year 11.

As part of the timetable, students complete a variety of genres. Additionally, as part of the Academy fee they have access to a range of after school classes and competition teams. There will also be several performance opportunities during the academic calendar for students at MEPA Academy.



**DREAM | BELIEVE | ACHIEVE**



# NURTURING ENVIRONMENT FOR AN AMBITIOUS CURRICULUM



# MEPA ACADEMY

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**TAKE A LOOK AT OUR ANNUAL ACADEMY MUSICALS**



MATILDA, 2025 - DIRECTED BY TILLY COOK & PHIL SNOWDEN



BUGSY MALONE, 2024 - DIRECTED BY PHIL SNOWDEN

# MUSICALS

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES EVERY TERM



MATILDA, 2025 - DIRECTED BY TILLY COOK & PHIL SNOWDEN



BUGSY MALONE, 2024 - DIRECTED BY PHIL SNOWDEN

# MEPA ACADEMY

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# SHOWCASES

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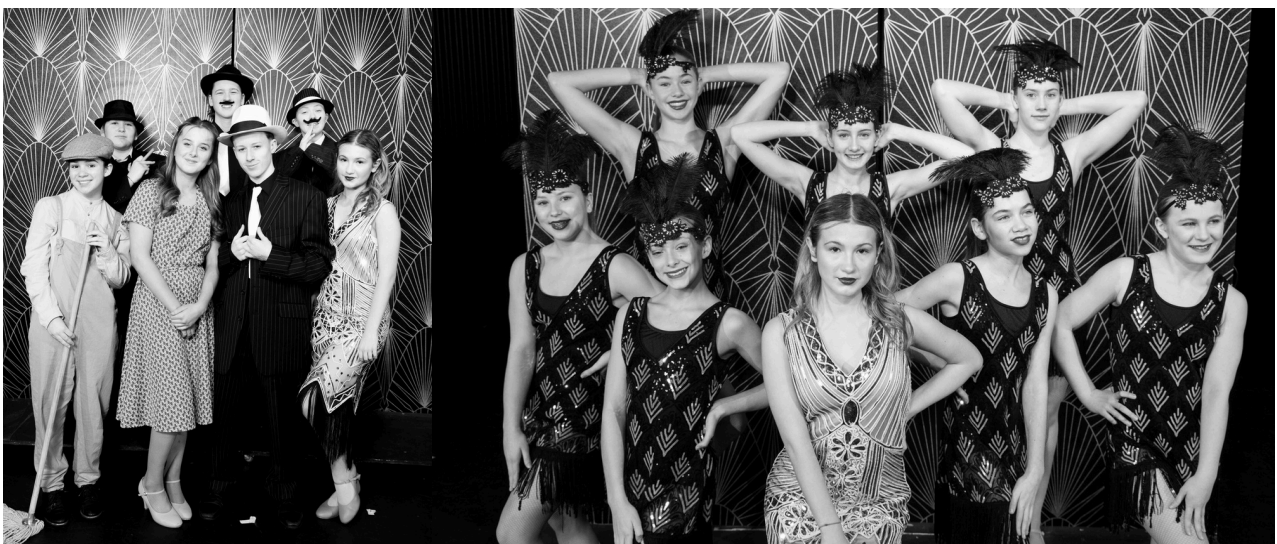
# PERFORMANCE OPPURTUNITIES

As a performing arts specialist Academy, we are proud to provide our students with many performance opportunities throughout the year. These are the perfect opportunities to demonstrate and show the industry professional training we provide.

At the end of each term, our students put together a showcase for families and friends. Each year, we present a musical. In previous years we have presented Buggy Malone, High School Musical, Matilda and we look forward to our future shows. Our students also get the incredible opportunity to compete at Dance World Cup with MEPA Studios, where our students have gone on to become Silver and Bronze placed winners for a variety of routines. Our students also take part in many other competitions throughout the year.



Matilda, 2025



Buggy Malone, 2024

# PUTTING THE STUDENTS FIRST

Starting a new school is a major transition in a child's life involving separation from familiar adults and children. By the time they are ready to start a new school, children have a more secure understanding of 'people permanence' and are consequently able to approach new experiences with some self-assurance. However, they will need preparation if they are going to be able to approach the transition to a new school with confidence. At MEPA Academy we know it is important to consider the essential administrative elements involved with the move up to secondary school. We understand the need to ensure that everyone involved is working in partnership, sharing relevant information and 'managing' the process of transition together. We will ensure there is a good line of communication between the parents, the school and the setting and each party should make their expectations of each other clear.

Wellbeing is at the heart of MEPA Academy. As a small school, we can offer enough time to be supportive, offer guidance, and care in a way which is unique to each student. We equip our students with a way of expressing their emotional needs without judgement.

As well as individual support, we look at the year and pinpoint certain times when the whole school may need wellbeing support. This may include how to beat exam stress, how to deal with anxiety at an audition, how to have a growth mindset and resilience when performing. This forms part of our Friday assemblies which focus on wellbeing which includes mindfulness.



# STUDENT SUCCESS

Our students are enthusiastic and creative, putting their energies into performance.

Students compete at Dance World Cup every year on the international stage.

We also support their aspirations for performance.

Take a look at our recent successes



**ENGLISH  
YOUTH  
BALLET**  
DANCE  
PERFORMANCE  
EXPERIENCE



# ALUMNI SUCCESS

We are extremely proud of our graduate students who have gone onto a variety of further education colleges and have begun their careers within the professional industry.



## ANDREW PARFITT

Graduated July 2022

### CREDITS:

2025 - Present The Lion King, West End, Ensemble Dancer  
2024 / 25 Wicked Film, Ensemble Dancer



## LOGAN BULL

Graduated July 2022

### CREDITS:

2025 - Present The Greatest Days Musical, P&O Cruises, Professional Dancer  
2024 - Ultimate Pop Show, Professional Dancer  
2024 - Aladdin Pantomime, Spillars Pantomimes

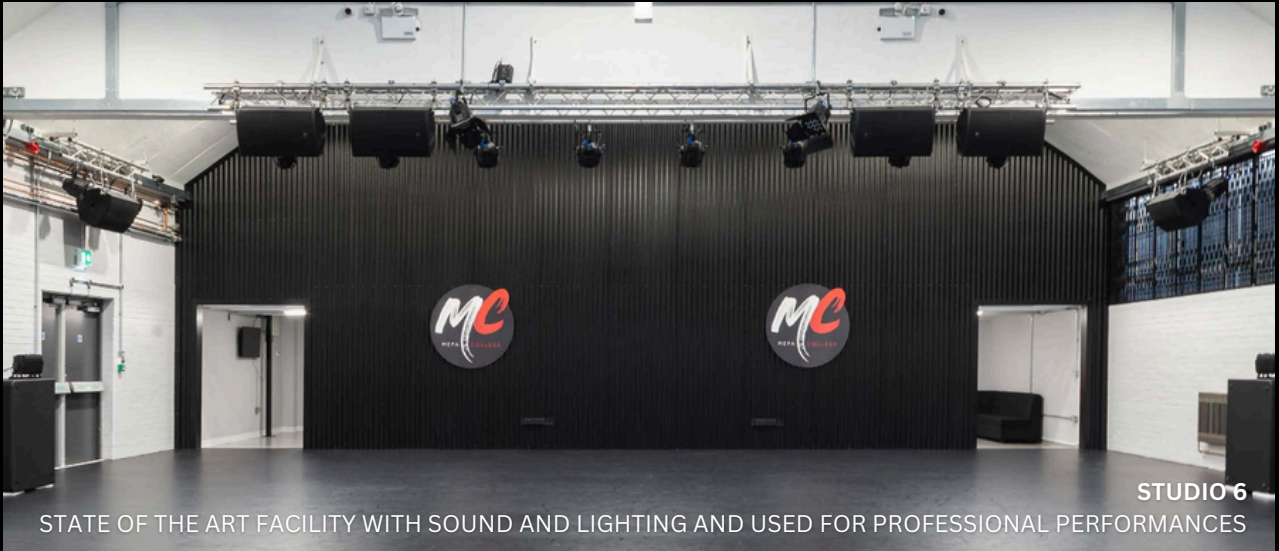
# STUDENT DESTINATIONS

Students who leave MEPA Academy often go on to further training at drama schools and universities, or begin careers in theatre, film, television, dance, and musical theatre. The skills, confidence, and discipline they gain at MEPA help prepare them for a wide range of opportunities, both within the performing arts and in other professional fields.



## FUSING EDUCATION WITH THE ARTS

# FACILITIES



STUDIO 6

STATE OF THE ART FACILITY WITH SOUND AND LIGHTING AND USED FOR PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCES



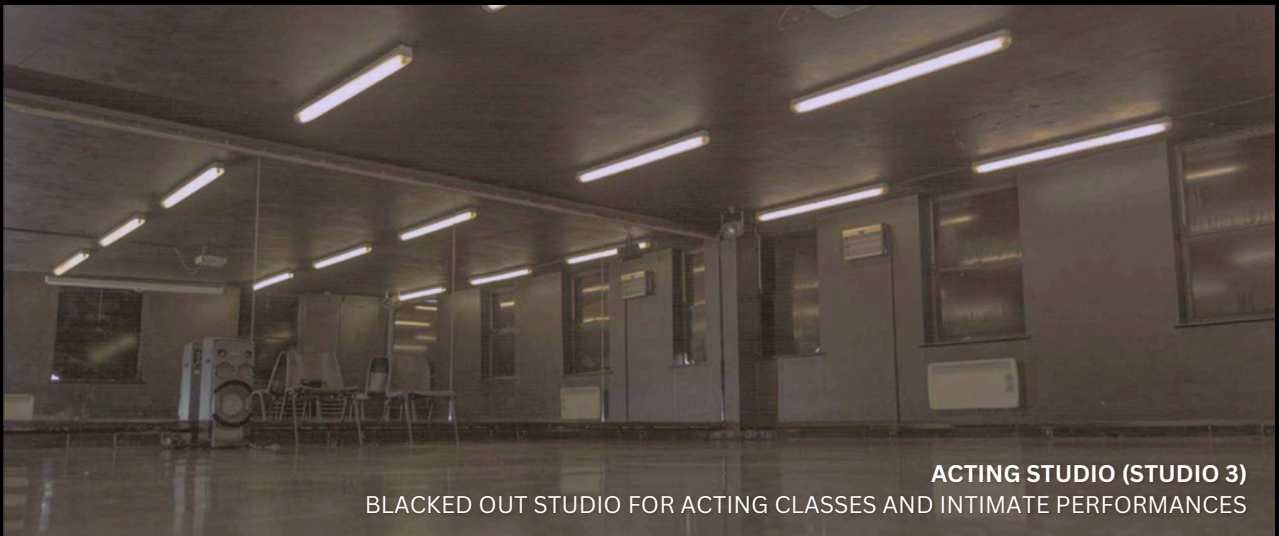
GYM (STUDIO 2)

FULLY EQUIPPED GYM



STUDIO 6

BALCONY OVERLOOKING STUDIO



ACTING STUDIO (STUDIO 3)

BLACKED OUT STUDIO FOR ACTING CLASSES AND INTIMATE PERFORMANCES



**CLASSROOM 2**  
TWO SMALL CLASS SIZED CLASSROOMS FOR ACADEMIC LESSONS



**STUDIO 1**  
LARGE SPACIOUS STUDIO



**COMPUTER SUITE**  
15 COMPUTERS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS



**DANCE STUDIO (STUDIO 4)**  
SPACIOUS STUDIO FOR DANCE AND SINGING LESSONS

“Choosing a secondary school is one of the biggest decisions any parent will make. For us, MEPA Academy made that decision easy. There is simply nothing else like it in the country – a small, nurturing environment that offers full-time performing arts education to such a high standard.

The individual attention each student receives is incredible, and the sense of community is unlike anything we’ve experienced elsewhere. It’s the perfect place for young people to not only develop their talents but to build confidence and find their voice. MEPA is something truly special.”

## **DANNY HAYWARD - YEAR 10 PARENT**

“My daughter joined MEPA after two incredibly challenging years at a grammar school. Over the past year I’ve seen her blossom and thrive - not just in terms of her confidence and skills in performing arts - but academically too.

She comes home to say she’s had a “good day” and looks forward to going to school. Sunday nights are no longer hard work. Life is completely different now for her and for me.

She has progressed in so many areas of her life thanks to attending this wonderful school and I cannot wait to watch her thrive and grow further over the coming years.”

## **HELEN LEWIS - YEAR 10 PARENT**



“I just wanted to write and state that my daughter is extremely happy since joining MEPA Academy recently, the communication, encouragement and inclusion has been so appreciated.

We were initially worried as a transition in school years, especially in Year 10 was nerve wracking, but we are confident that this is the right place for her to be given the best possible opportunities.

The initial test she undertook to ascertain her current levels and expected grades were fantastic, and despite it being only her second day, it reassured us that the Academy knows how she will learn best and encourage her to do well. This is more than we got in the whole time she was at her previous grammar school in the past 3.5 years.

As for the vocational opportunities, Gracie has ended each day on a high and eager to go again the next morning without any hesitation, a testament to the Academy's approach and resources available to them. As a Year 10 student with no tap experience, jazz or ballet, the teaching staff have truly accommodated her needs and slowed things down to support her learning but not to the detriment of her peers, as a result she is always keen and enthusiastic to catch up and put the effort in to be part of the team.

Highly recommend MEPA Academy and the confidence and enjoyment it has brought to Gracie in such a short since of time, which I have no doubt will only continue.

Just to note, Gracie got a grade 9 in her science test despite not being there and covering the first part of the content previously, and the tap teacher was surprised she'd not tapped before as said she's good. She's over the moon with the comments from the staff and encouragement; it's just the confidence boost she needed.

Her only gripe is that her parents didn't sign her up sooner!”

## **LAURA DIXON - YEAR 10 PARENT**



# ADMISSIONS

Applications will be through the auditioning process which includes an audition, interview and a Maths and English assessment. We aim for students that attend our audition days to have an enjoyable experience as they sample the atmosphere and energy of MEPA Academy. Setting aside the fact that this is a live audition for entry to the academy, we want our visitors and prospective students to feel welcome, safe and confident to explore the day and all the fun and excitement that this brings.

The audition experience is a full day that follows a timetable.

1. Welcome from the Principal and a member of the Senior Management Team
2. Academic assessments in English and Maths
3. A selection of workshop classes from Jazz, Ballet, commercial Dance and Musical Theatre
4. Individual auditions for Acting, Singing and Dance
5. An opportunity if desired by the student, to demonstrate any skills in Music / playing of an instrument

Students are required to prepare the following:

1. Acting - A monologue of between 1-2 minutes in length
2. Singing - A song of between 1-2 minutes in length
3. Dance - A solo dance in any style of approximately 2 minutes in length



# MEPA STUDIOS

As part of the MEPA Academy fees, students receive full access to the tuition offered at MEPA Studios. This gives academy students the opportunity to benefit from additional professional training, expert coaching, and the high-quality facilities that MEPA Studios provides.

Over the years, MEPA Studios has celebrated many successes, with students achieving strong results in examinations, performing in professional productions, and gaining places at respected performing arts schools and programmes. By combining the academy curriculum with the experience and achievements of MEPA Studios, students benefit from a well-rounded training environment that supports their growth, confidence, and development as performers.

Students and parents can find out more about MEPA Studios, its training programmes, and its student successes by visiting the MEPA Studios website. The website provides detailed information about classes, tuition, upcoming opportunities, and the wider work of the studio, offering a helpful insight into the training and experiences available to MEPA Academy students.

[www.mepastudios.com](http://www.mepastudios.com)









## **MEPA ACADEMY**

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