



BARNARD CASTLE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

LAMDA Lessons

I am delighted to inform you that as part of our co-curricular activities programme, LAMDA lessons are available at Barnard Castle School.

What is LAMDA?

LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) is one of the oldest and most respected drama schools in the United Kingdom and a centre of excellence in performance training. It is also the UK's largest speech and drama awarding body, with a reputation for excellence across the globe.

LAMDA lessons are not exclusive to those wishing to pursue an interest in the performing arts; they are designed to equip pupils, whatever their age and aspirations, with a range of skills that will serve them throughout their lives. These skills work towards improving self-confidence, assertiveness, unlocking imagination and helping to develop vocal and reading skills in a fun and enthusiastic atmosphere.

It has been especially designed to provide an easy transition for all pupils to continue with or start drama lessons from Prep School upwards, as all pupils can access the lessons. You do not need to have had previous drama lessons elsewhere, or feel that you have to be particularly gifted at drama to take part. The emphasis is on providing quality tuition for all year groups and all standards to improve confidence and communication skills among others.

The process and preparation for succeeding in a LAMDA examination essentially helps learners across the range. The examinations develop a learner's ability to:

- Read easily and fluently and with good understanding
- Expand vocabulary to improve powers of self-expression
- Improve confidence in speaking and listening
- Memorise and recall information
- Create and defend arguments
- Engage in constructive informal conversation

Lessons take place with Mrs Emily Wilson, a former pupil of Barnard Castle School and now currently a parent. Mrs Wilson knows first-hand the importance and benefit of developing strong interpersonal, communication and presentation skills and being able to apply them to daily life. Having continued drama to degree level, specialising in the voice, she has been working as a Speech and Drama teacher with pupils throughout both Prep Schools and Senior Schools and putting them successfully through their examinations with excellent results. Mrs Wilson is a keen performer herself, and firmly believes that every individual has an inner confidence which can be nurtured and brought to the fore. She will provide individual lessons which cater for each pupil's needs and assist them in preparation for graded LAMDA Speech and Drama Examinations should they wish to take them.

The lessons will last for 30 minutes and can be either a one-to-one lesson or timetabled as a shared group lesson and take place throughout the normal school day. Sibling lessons are also available. The charges per lesson are £16.95 for an individual lesson with a reduced cost for a group lesson.

The following exams will be available:

Acting

Over ten lessons your child will learn the important stage skills required to be a convincing and fun character in a scene that will be presented to an examiner followed by a discussion about their piece.

Verse & Prose

An exam that is ideal for bringing out a confident speaker. Your child will explore different verse forms, metre and rhythm, key literary figures and breathing and voice production.

Reading for Performance

An exam tailored around a specific dramatic theme. Different styles of writing will be explored centred around a student's particular love of literature.

Mime

LAMDA examinations in Mime are designed to develop the skills necessary to create a performance using non-verbal techniques. These examinations also provide learners with the opportunity to develop skills which support the delivery of dramatic text.

Public Speaking

LAMDA examinations in Speaking in Public are designed to develop the skills necessary for effective oral communication and public presentation.

Devising Drama

LAMDA examinations in Devising Drama are designed to develop the skills necessary to devise a dramatic performance and present it to an audience. These examinations also provide learners with the opportunity to develop skills which support the delivery of dramatic text.

We would recommend LAMDA lessons to any prospective drama scholars to support their learning and give them experience and additional qualifications.

If you would like your son or daughter to have lessons, please complete the form below and return it to the Prep School Office. Please note that thus far, LAMDA lessons are a popular choice with the children, therefore we have limited spaces available and there may be a waiting list for your child to join. Mrs Wilson has requested that each child brings a small notebook and a plastic wallet to their lessons so that she is able to record their progress on a weekly basis.

In the event that you and your child decide that Speech and Drama is not for them, then Mrs Wilson will require six weeks' notice in writing or via email. The six week period begins the week following the receipt of notice.

We hope that this will be a valuable addition to our curriculum and that LAMDA will go from strength to strength as pupils can gain so much from the lessons. If you would like any further details, please contact Mrs Wilson directly via email erw@barneyschool.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Laura Turner

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LAMDA Lessons

Name: _____ Year: _____

I would like my son/daughter to take part in LAMDA lessons and would like an individual/joint lesson please.

Signed: _____ Date: _____