

Annual Report for Academic Year 15-16

General Info:

Wac Arts College (the “College”) is incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee with no share capital (company number 07949464) and is an exempt charity.

The charitable company’s memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The members of the Company are also governors of the College. The Governors are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of Company Law and are trustees for the purposes of Charity Law. The Academies Act 2010 made all academies and free schools exempt charities because they are considered to be properly supervised by and accountable to another acceptable body. As an exempt charity, Wac Arts College is still subject to the legal rules and guidelines applicable to charities and the Governors still have the same duties and responsibilities.

New Governors are inducted into the workings of Wac Arts College and also of the Company. When new Governors are to be appointed they are given a tour of Wac Arts College and encouraged to arrange a day at the College to view how the College functions. New Governors will be provided with all documents required to enable them to undertake their role as Governors. During the period under review, the Governors held 5 meetings which included training sessions. Further opportunity was given for the Governors to meet new members of staff.

Organisational Structure

The operation of Wac Arts College is led by the Governors and the Principal, who is the Accounting Officer. The Governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting a plan and budget. The Governors make all key strategic decisions with regard to Wac Arts College, including capital expenditure and senior appointments. They monitor financial progress against budget and educational progress against targets. The Principal and Heads of Post-16 and Pre-16 form the Senior Leadership Team which is responsible for implementing policies and reporting to the Governors. The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of further staff.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

Wac Arts College rents space from the charity Wac Arts in its building ‘The Old Town Hall in Hampstead’. The College also has a number of Service Level Agreements with Wac Arts. The College is entirely separate from the charity. With a shared ethos, Wac Arts College gains considerably from access to Wac Arts’ facilities and the experience it has gained over many years of charitable work. Wac Arts College’s students benefit from an association with the charitable programmes which are similarly run for the benefit of young people.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal object and activity of the company is the advancement for the public benefit in the United Kingdom, in particular, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a College offering a specialist creative arts and media curriculum. It does this through the operation of Wac Arts College which provides alternative education with an emphasis on the creative arts and media for pupils between the ages of 14 and 19 who have not been successful in mainstream education. All students attending Wac Arts College have either been permanently excluded, at risk of exclusion or NEET and have had significant issues engaging in mainstream education.

We offer a full-time programme of creative arts and media education, access to a more “traditional” academic curriculum (embedded within the creative arts curriculum), mentoring, counselling, family support and work-related learning activities. The College operates from our site in Belsize Park, North West London (Camden).

We operate a highly creative, project-based, discovery-based, experiential, child-centred delivery model in an attempt to move away from the kind of mainstream provision that our students have not succeeded in. The students are divided into pre and post-16 groups and are taught in groups of between 5 and 15 depending on the subject area they are working in. Pastoral care is a priority to help support our students who often present with highly complex emotional, social and behavioural issues that are a significant barrier to their learning and progress. Fostering the creative potential of our students is the key to them re-engaging with learning and developing the skills and competencies for a successful life.

Our students present with significant barriers to learning that we work hard to mitigate. They have often missed large chunks of schooling and the extremely chaotic nature of their lives has prevented them from fulfilling their creative and academic potential.

Our ethos is founded on a number of principles, which we have embedded through the Charity, Wac Arts’ long standing practice in non-statutory arts and media education for those aged 5-25, specifically that excellence and engagement through the arts:

- unlocks individual talents;
- fosters aspiration and achievement;
- empowers young people to acknowledge and celebrate their heritage; and
- develops transferable skills for employability such as communication, problem solving, team work, entrepreneurship and leadership.

We take referrals directly from students and parents/carers (Post-16) and from schools and Local Education Authorities (pre-16). Around 50% of our students come from LB Camden but there are also students from seven other London Boroughs, plus the Tri-borough of Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham.

We believe passionately that learning can – and should be – enjoyable, and that, particularly for those who have been alienated from or excluded by ‘traditional’ and ‘mainstream’ statutory education, the creative curriculum puts pleasure back into learning. Behaviour such as avoiding and resisting learning in school can often be signs of imagination and creativity and many young people

in alternative provision are most suited for a career in the creative industries. Our curriculum ensures that young people are able to work towards meaningful accreditation which will enable them to access these industries, and other post-19 options in accordance with their aspirations.

To this end Wac Arts College includes the following activities:

- learning opportunities for all pupils appropriate to their age and ability;
- training opportunities for all staff;
- a programme of extended day activities to supplement their learning opportunities;
- trips and visits to support learning

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The main objectives of Wac Arts College during the year ended 31 August 2016, along with the strategies for achieving these objectives, were:

- 1. To have in place high quality teaching and learning in all areas that delivers the curriculum vision and meets the specific needs of all students**
 - To improve the quality of teaching by further developing extended and student led activities.
 - To improve the teaching of maths
 - To meet the requirements of changing qualifications, especially GCSE English and new arts and media programmes.
- 2. To support students in becoming effective learners and in overcoming the issues that restricts their learning.**
 - To improve student attendance & punctuality
 - To enhance the capacity of staff to manage challenging student behaviour and disengagement
 - To involve parents more effectively in the education of their children
- 3. To provide sufficient, high quality resources so as to enable the college to meet the needs of all its students**
 - To address the College's need for more accommodation appropriate to its needs.
 - To recruit a full intake at funding levels which enable the College to meet the needs of students with significant additional needs
 - To enhance the provision and use of technology in the curriculum
- 4. To monitor, evaluate and provide feedback on teaching and learning, student progress and all other aspects of the work of the College**
 - To ensure that students receive and use appropriate feedback on their work
 - To gather and use student performance data to ensure that student progress can be identified and to support effective teaching and learning
 - To evaluate the overall performance of the college in line with Ofsted criteria.

Performance and progress against these objectives is closely monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and is reviewed and challenged by the governors in the curriculum and standards committee.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

The College assesses its performance on the progress and achievement of its students. During the year the College had 20 pre-16 students and 40 post-16 students. These students achieved the following:

Post 16

In the 2015-16 academic year 7 post-16 students were entered in the BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Performing Arts. All 7 were successful, with 1 student achieving a Distinction, 4 a Merit and 2 a Pass.

Post 16 students were also entered in to examinations for English and Maths qualifications with the following levels of achievement:

<u>2015-16 Results</u>		
<u>Post-16</u>	# students achieving result	% students entered
BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Performing Arts	7	100%
Distinction*	1	14%
Merit	4	57%
Pass	2	29%
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Sound Engineering and Music Technology: full qualification	7	100%
Distinction	1	14%
Merit	4	57%
Pass	2	29%
A*–G English GCSE	8	80%
A*–G Maths GCSE	8	53%

A*–G English and Maths GCSE	3	33%
A*–C English GCSE	0	0%
A*–C Maths GCSE	2	13%
A*–C English and Maths GCSE	0	0%

Functional Skills English Level 2	2	33%
Functional Skills English Level 1	6	86%
Functional Skills Maths Level 1	0	0%
Functional Skills English and Maths Level 1	0	0%

	# students	% students
Student retention	12/12	100%
Student destinations: in education, employment and training	14	82%
Student destinations: NEET (not in education, employment and training)	3	18%

<u>Year 11</u>	2015-16 Results	
	# students achieving result	% students entered

3 accreditations including English and Maths GCSE at A*–G	3	38%
3 GCSEs including English and Maths at A*–G	3	38%
A*–G English GCSE	4	50%
A*–G Maths GCSE	3	38%
A*–G English and Maths GCSE	3	38%
3 GCSEs or equivalent including English and Maths at A*–C	0	0%

A*–C English GCSE	0	0%
A*–C Maths GCSE	0	0%
A*–C English and Maths GCSE	0	0%

Functional Skills English Level 2	1	100%
Functional Skills English Level 1	2	100%

	# students	% students
Student retention	6/9	67%
Student destinations: in education, employment and training	5	71%
Student destinations: NEET (not in education, employment and training)	2	29%

Key Performance Indicators

Key Performance Indicators for the College are examination performance (as summarised above), pupil attendance, pupil recruitment and financial performance (as discussed below). Pupil attendance in 2015-16 was:

	Present %	Unauthorised %	Authorised %
Pre-16	59%	11%	30%
Post-16	66%	7%	27%