

# PARENT FAQs

## What courses can my son/daughter choose from?

Students choose from a two year foundation course in Acting or Musical Theatre, or our three year Professional Performance Course. Our Foundation courses are a sixth form alternative and best suited to year 11 leavers, but also to those who have finished sixth form and require further training before progressing to Diploma/Degree level. Our Professional Performance Course is equivalent to higher education and best suited to those who have undertaken previous training. Students are usually aged 18 when the course commences, but we do take students aged 16-19 depending on experience. For students that are really serious about becoming a performer, we offer an Audition Preparation Package which is an additional seven hours of training per week. This package classes change yearly to reflect audition trends and criteria but always include private singing and acting lessons. The cost for this package is £1,500 per year.

## What experience or training is required?

We do not necessarily expect any previous training or experience for our Foundation Courses, we are looking for trainability and passion. Experience on stage helps but is not a pre-requisite.

## What qualification will my son/daughter receive?

Foundation Course students study towards a BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Performing Arts which is equivalent to two A-Levels and recognised by UCAS.

The practical side of our Professional Performance Course reflects the practical element taught at degree level. Students will study towards a BTEC Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (if not already gained) and can also opt to study for an additional teaching qualification.

## What is the audition process like?

We understand that auditions can be scary, so do our best to put the auditionees at ease. Students are invited to tour the college and meet our teachers before auditioning in front of the College Principle. Acting students are asked to prepare a monologue and song, Musical Theatre and Professional Performance students will also learn a jazz and ballet routine. The audition fee is £35. If we feel someone has potential but didn't perform their best on the day, we may invite them to a recall. We also hold a free Experience Day which is an opportunity for potential students to meet the teachers and take part in workshops which can help them decide if we are the right college.

## What if we can't make it to an audition day?

We hold a number of audition days throughout the year, but if your son or daughter cannot attend an audition day we can accept audition videos sent via email. For more information please email [marketing@stageworksstudio.co.uk](mailto:marketing@stageworksstudio.co.uk)

## What will the course cost?

For most students, we can receive full or part government funding to reduce the cost of training. If your child is leaving Year 11 we can receive full government funding, which means the Foundation Course is free. If your child has already completed a BTEC Level 3 Diploma in a similar subject, or is over the age of 19 we cannot get full government funding. This means the Foundation course fees are £6,000 per year and the Professional Performance Course is £7,000 per year. However, if your child can study towards the Extended Diploma whilst on our Professional Performance Course, the cost is reduced to £4,000 per year. The Professional Performance Course includes the Audition Preparation Package but if Foundation Course students want to add on this package, it would be an extra £1,500 per year. Fees are very much on a case by case basis so please contact us for clarity.



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## Where could my son or daughter live?

If you are not local to us, we have a variety of Stageworks managed houses and can take students from 16 years old. Our Welfare and Pastoral Officer helps manage the properties so your son or daughter would live in a property managed by Stageworks, alongside other students. We find St Neots is a fantastic place for students to learn independence and responsibility without the expense of London.

## How much is rent?

Rent averages £85-£100 (including bills) per week, but if your son or daughter is moving away from home and studying towards the BTEC, they may be eligible for housing support which can drastically reduce the cost.

## Can Stageworks help us with funding?

We can do our best to help your son or daughter receive housing benefit and funding for their course. Funding for the course is very much on a case by case basis so please contact us for more information.

## How many teaching hours are there per week?

All of our students train five days per week. Students on the Foundation Course receive 18 hours of training per week, or 25 hours if they choose to take the Audition Preparation Package. The Professional Performance Course students receive 35+ hours of training per week. Timetabled teaching hours excludes rehearsal time. Class sizes are kept to a minimum to ensure students receive the attention needed to progress.

## What support will my son/daughter receive?

Staff at Stageworks take the responsibility of welfare very seriously. With an open door policy for personal, emotional or educational worries, we always do our utmost to help guide students to resolve any issues or concerns. If issues do arise, students and parents alike should feel assured that personal discussions with staff members are kept private and confidential, with the required action taken where necessary. We have a Pastoral Officer on site who is dedicated to student welfare, both in and outside of college.

Whilst with us, all students are given an Individual Learning Plan which is reviewed regularly, and termly assessments ensure students are kept on track and meet their targets. These assessments will be posted to parents along with records of attendance including any unauthorised or repeat absences.

A 'red letter system' is in place to record and inform all teachers of any injuries sustained, along with the recommended recovery needed. This enables consistency during the treatment of an injury and promotes the optimal recovery.

## What would be the next steps after graduation?

Next steps for your son or daughter could be higher education institutions such as Performance Colleges or University. Alternatively, they may want to start auditioning during their final year with us and many go on to perform on stage, at resorts or on cruise ships.



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