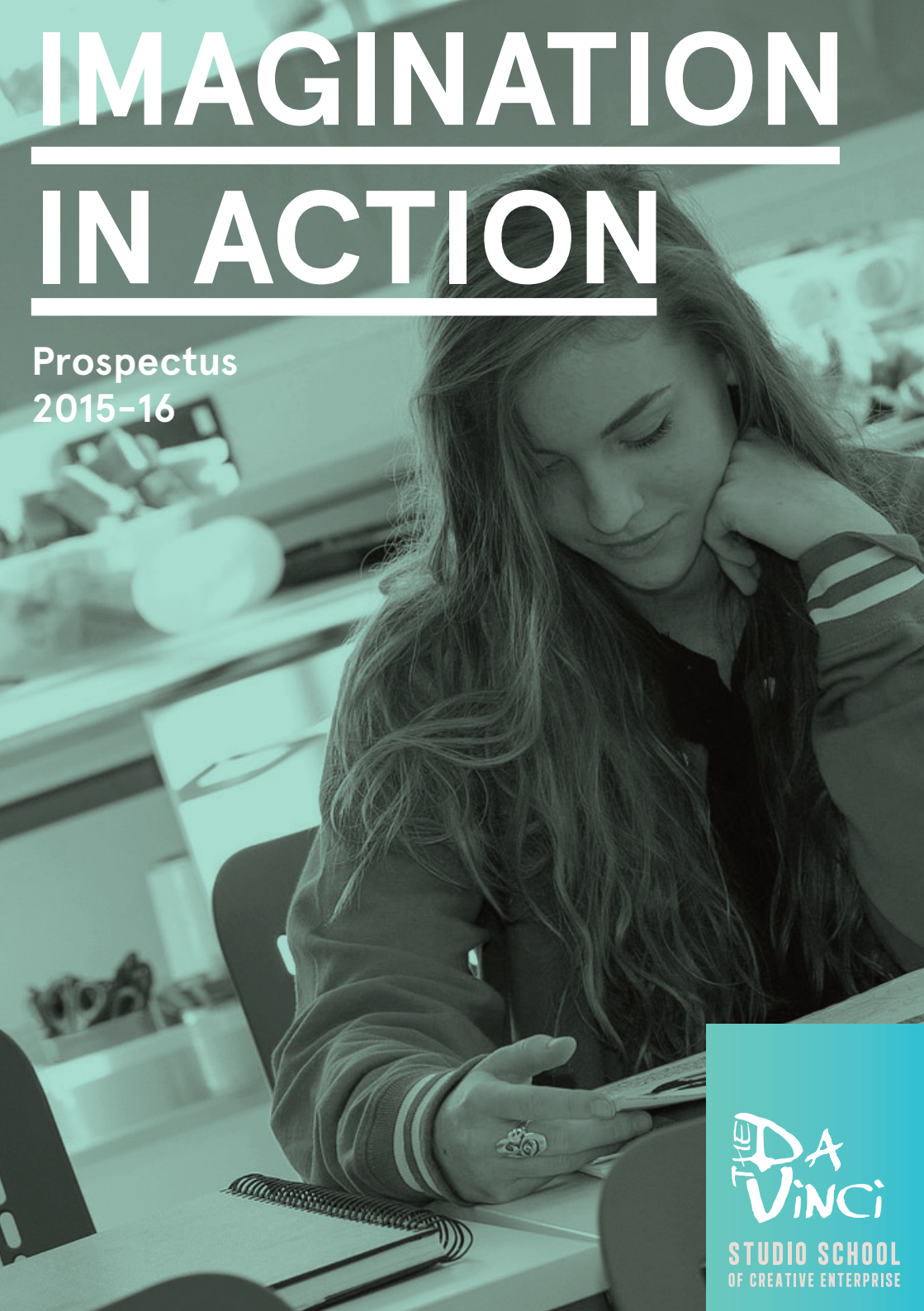
IMAGINATION IN ACTION

Prospectus
2015-16



The Da Vinci
STUDIO SCHOOL
OF CREATIVE ENTERPRISE

We welcome you to The Da Vinci Studio School of Creative Enterprise.

Da Vinci is an exciting and inspiring place to learn. We value all students equally, whatever their background or ability and are committed to offering an excellent education, stimulating opportunities, and strive to provide high standards of learning and pastoral care for every one of our students. Our school's motto is `**imagination in action**' and we encourage students to learn the joy of **innovation** and **creativity**.

We are part of the:

HART SCHOOLS TRUST

The Thomas Alleyne Academy

The Da Vinci Studio School of Science and Engineering

We work with:

ual: university of the arts london awarding body

arts award centre

creative & cultural skills

INTO FILM

Why study at Da Vinci Studio School of Creative Enterprise?

A curriculum based on the UK's diverse and strong creative industries

In the heart of a creative renaissance for the historically pioneering town of Letchworth

100% pass rate on post 16 courses

Professional working theatre for production and performance

Ofsted rated 'Good' school in 2015

State-of-the-art facilties with industry expertise

Prodigous student satisfaction and happiness

Highly employable alumni prepared with skills and experience

What is a studio school?
The Studio School is a new concept in education, which seeks to address the growing gap between the skills and knowledge that young people require to succeed, and those that the current education system provides. Studio Schools pioneer a bold new approach to learning which includes teaching through enterprise projects and real work. This approach ensures students' learning is rooted in the real world and helps them to develop the skills they need to flourish in life. We are part of the Hart Schools Trust, a multi-academy trust sponsored by North Hertfordshire College.

What is the focus of The Da Vinci Studio School of Creative Enterprise?
Every studio school has a specifc focus. This school has a strong creative and cultural focus that concentrates on developing the skills linked to the performance, art and design, creative media and production backstage industries. Students can develop their interest in areas such as event management, lighting, sound, technical design, video and film production, interactive and print design, design crafts, photography, dance and acting; all within a business and enterprise context.

What can studying at this Studio School lead to?
Our practical, project-based curriculum helps you to develop up to date skills that meet the needs of employers within the creative and cultural industries. Students who join the school at Key Stage 4 will be able to progress on to the school's range of specialised creative enterprise pathways at post 16 across the Hart Schools Trust and North Hertfordshire College.

The qualifications you achieve during your time with us enable you to apply for:

- A-Level study
- An apprenticeship
- A further education course
- A university course

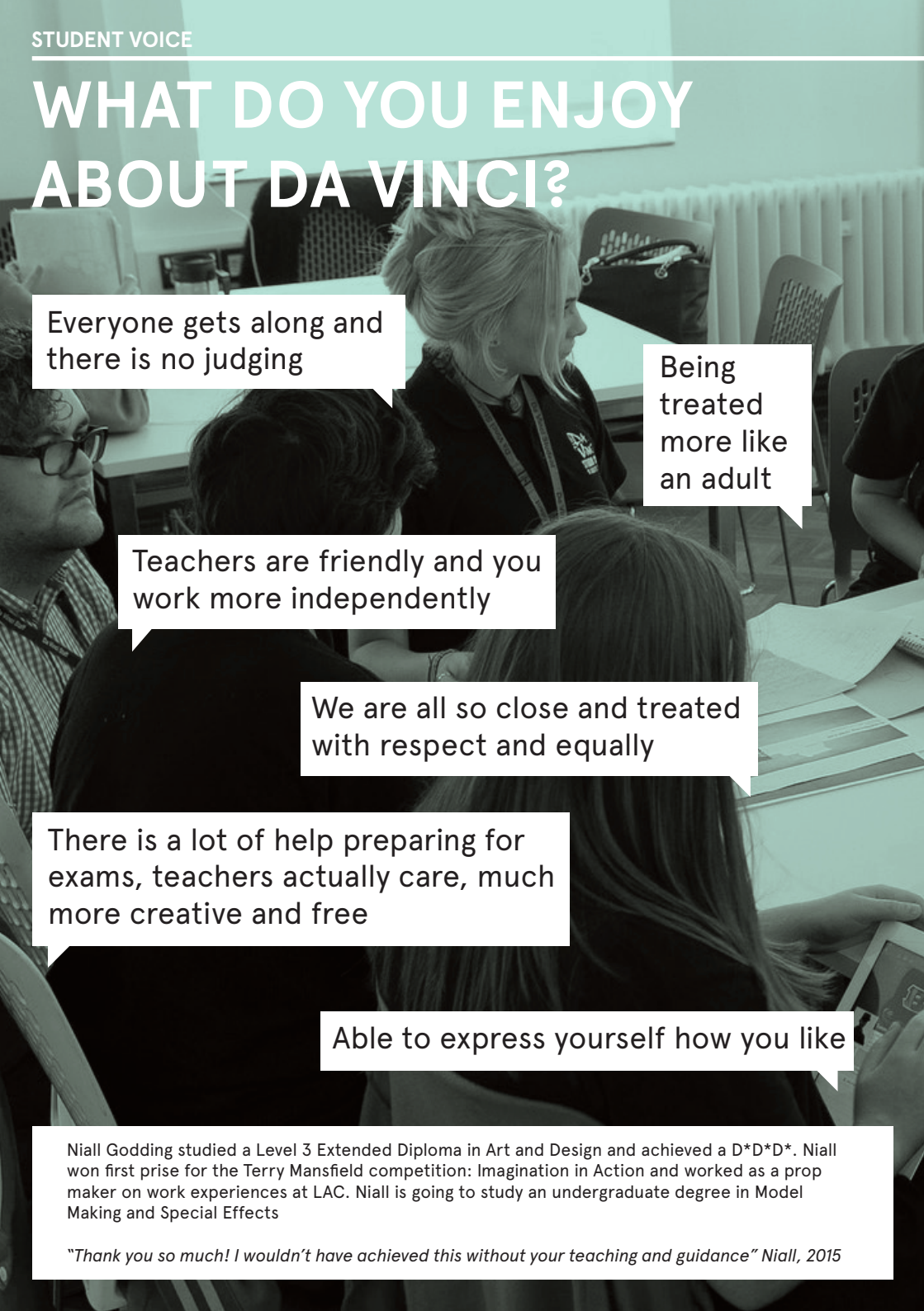
Key stage 4 (14-16 years old)
A curriculum based around the arts and enterprise

Our innovative, creative curriculum enables students to access a broad range of opportunities.

At the age of 14 students can choose from GCSEs and vocational qualifications in acting, dance, production arts, business studies, art and digital media; supported by the core subjects of English literature and language, maths and double science. This is enhanced by access to the nationally recognised Arts Award. Students will also experience a range of non-examined courses including weekly PE lessons and a learning for life curriculum.

Students benefit from a readiness to work programme that fosters the skills and confidence to understand how to apply for jobs, how to shine at interviews, how to compile a CV and how to be an outstanding employee. In term two, after they have been supported through applying for a work placement, they start their first week of work experience in a genuine commercial setting, putting into practice the important work skills of punctuality, working as a team and problem solving: skills that the industry are crying out for. Our students have access to five weeks of work experience during key stage 4 which is significantly more than other schools provide in our area.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT DA VINCI?



Niall Godding studied a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Art and Design and achieved a D*D*D*. Niall won first prise for the Terry Mansfield competition: Imagination in Action and worked as a prop maker on work experiences at LAC. Niall is going to study an undergraduate degree in Model Making and Special Effects

"Thank you so much! I wouldn't have achieved this without your teaching and guidance" Niall, 2015

WHAT CHANGES HAVE YOU SEEN IN YOURSELF SINCE JOINING DA VINCI?

Megan Digby studied a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts and worked on several opportunities for work experience such as Fireside Festival, online series Ren and pantomine. Megan is going to study at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts.

"Through the skills I learnt and opportunities afforded to me through enrichment and work experience, I gained the skills I needed to be accepted onto a number of different courses, but importantly to be able to gain access to LIPA"
Megan, 2015

GCSE English Language

Students consider writers' viewpoints and create their own pieces of fiction writing. Students can take advantage of an array of stimuli to inspire their descriptive or narrative writing creations. Keeping up-to-date with current news events encourages students to be aware of the wider society around them and offer opportunities to convey their ideas about events. This also leads into speaking and listening skills.

GCSE English Literature

Students explore a rich and diverse selection of texts ranging from Shakespeare's works, 19th century novels, to post-20th century texts. The literature course also provides an excellent platform for students to get under the skin of poetry.

Mathematics GCSE

Mathematics is a fascinating and useful discipline that is an essential tool for artists, architects, set designers, fashion designers, business owners, scientists and much more. Students study numbers, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and statistics.

Science Double Award

In our bright new science lab, students learn by a mixture of practical, hands on science experiments, group work, investigations and individual study. The four threads of biology, chemistry, physics and practical science are taught woven together with considerations of how science affects our modern society and the creative industries.

OPTION COURSES

GCSE Applied Business

Throughout this two-year course, students study forms of ownership, business practices, marketing and advertising, why businesses succeed or fail, market research, corporate social responsibility and its effect on business. In the creative sector an understanding of business is a desired attribute.

GCSE Art and Design

In our huge art studio, students explore the world of visual arts and how to communicate ideas visually. Students experiment in a lot of different disciplines including 2D and 3D. Students can use our glass kiln and clay kiln, or our Canon DSLR cameras and a photography studio kit, as well as computer-based work using Adobe
Creative Suite.

BTEC Creative Media

In our suite of Macs, students study the creation and development of digital media products through the design and implementation of practical projects that are based on real case studies. Students also study the social cultural and business contexts of digital media.

GCSE Dance

In our beautiful dance studio, students develop physical competence and effectiveness as a performer and their knowledge of safe working practice. They perform dances such as "Impulse" choreographed by a professional dancer in a clean, linear style from within the contemporary dance genre.

GCSE Drama

Benefitting from lessons in a real theatre, students explore and confront serious issues from within the safety of a drama enrivonment. Key skills such as time management, independent study and team work are developed throughout the course. At the same time, the written elements of the course promote ICT skills and support literacy. The reflective nature of the writing encourages empathy, critical analysis and self-reflection.

BTEC Production Arts

In a state of the art lighting studio and our own theatre, students learn how to do everything that enables a show to take place around the performers - lighting, sound, scenery, front of house, production and business. Three themes are covered throughout this course; preparation for work, technical and design. Students learn through a combination of theoretical and practical study of the topics. The practical elements are based around live project briefs set out by clients and industry.

SEND provision
We are fully inclusive and aim to provide pupils with strategies for dealing with any specific needs in a supportive environment. Most important of all is high quality teaching. To achieve this, we have small class sizes and work extremely closely with staff to ensure appropriate strategies are being employed in class. For those students who may require more intense support, our dedicated SEND team will work with all parties concerned to create an action plan specific to the student's needs. This plan is reviewed regularly.

"Equal opportunities enjoy a high profile in the school. Students of all abilities and from all backgrounds are treated with respect. The school promotes good relations and discrimination is not tolerated in any form." Ofsted 2015

Pastoral Support
Pastoral support is something which we at Da Vinci pride ourselves on. Every student has a personal coach who regularly meets with them to discuss pastoral and academic progress. Alongside our personal coaches students have access to a specialist pastoral coach and conduct coach who are at hand to guide and support students who require more intense pastoral care. When asked to describe their school to the Studio Schools Trust. Students said 'Since being at Da Vinci my confidence has gone through the roof', 'Life changing', 'supportive', 'friendly', 'personalised', 'individual', 'mutually respectful'.

‘Levels of subjective wellbeing are generally reported to be higher amongst those with higher arts and cultural engagement’

Arts Council 2014

`Arts and culture illuminates our inner lives, enriches our emotional world and teaches us compassion'

Art Council 2014

Enrichment for 14 to 16 years
We run over 30 enrichment choices across the year, some lasting a few weeks, some the whole year. Every student benefits from at least two per week. Activities can include; student magazine, mural painting, stage combat, radio production, football club, prom committee, gardening club, homework club, music club, drama and many more.

Student council
We firmly believe that for us to become an outstanding educational institution we must have an active student body with a genuine voice. To do this we have a senior student team who oversee a student council made up of students from all years. These council meetings take place monthly with the senior student team then meeting the senior leaders to share student's views and ideas. We take our students' ideas seriously.

'Teachers place a strong emphasis on empowering students.' Ofsted 2015

PE and Sports Day
PE at Da Vinci is different. PE lessons are based around engagement and developing understanding of the importance of exercise. Students enjoy varied activities including team sports, dance, outdoor and adventurous activities as well as creating/completing their own exercise programmes with the help of qualified personal trainers at the local gym. Our sports day is very different from traditional school sports days; it's great fun with an inflatable obstacle courses, gladiator battles, tug of war and team challenges

Learning for life
Learning for life develops students' life skills and understanding of current affairs, religion, British values, e-safety and health (physical and emotional). This is explored through curriculum lessons.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experience is an integral part of our offer. Our students have access to five times more work experience than a traditional secondary school. The quality and scope of the work experience opportunities for our students is unique. Our dedicated work placement team liaise with students carefully, before they head out to try the world of work, supporting with a readiness to work programme, that helps with skills such as CV writing, understanding job descriptions and how to make a good first impression at an interview.

Students benefit from our strong links with the creative industries. Shakur, for example, worked with The Iris Theatre in Covent Garden during their production of 12th Night. Shakur said `we had to set up props, talk to visitors, show students round. I worked as part of the front of house team, and I got to talk to actors and the lighting crew about their work.' Elliot and Paul were invited to work as part of the lighting team for The Brits after show party; other students have worked with, for example, film companies producing adverts, supported the Rhythms of the World Festival and had placements in the Delfont Mackintosh Theatres working on shows such as Miss Saigon. Students leave us with impressive CV's and the confidence and maturity to be comfortable and successful in the working world.

'Students in the sixth form have very good opportunities to undertake work experience.' Ofsted 2015

Jared had a consultation with us at the start of the year to determine where he would like to develop his career; he chose a few options with University of Hertfordshire being his top choice so we arranged an interview and secured a brilliant work placement for Jared to gain work experience in the School of Art & Design.

Alicia's second workplacement of the year is spent at Select working in this busy fashion chain outlet. The store manager has appreciated Alicia's work experience commitment so far she has offered Alicia Part Time employment next year!

Ella's new work placement The IET provides Ella with a brilliant insight into the creative side of the business working with digital architects in the technology department. Ella is working hard analysing and producing reports on data from their community portals, assisting with IET TV, and learning more about their publications, events, and global networks.

Company Stage Manager, David Bowman said "Sam has been absolutely a core member of the technical team here. He has impressed us all and works hard everyday on a high pressured show where we have to get everything spot on for each of the 34 performances!"

Acting

Level 3 Extended Diploma in **Acting**

Whether you see yourself as an actor, a comedian or a children's theatre performer, Level 3 in Performing Arts is the perfect place to begin.

Students will have the opportunity to take part in workshops with professional dance companies. We regularly go to see live dance performances as part of the dance courses and have been invited to be involved in professional performances too.

We are looking for students who show a keen interest in performance, who understand the difference between being successful and being famous; students who are willing to try new ideas and who work well with others.

Many of our students go on to study at drama schools and university. Previous students have gone on to study at East 15, Central School of Speech and Drama, ALRA, RADA, Winchester and Manchester Metropolitan among others. There is also the opportunity for students to go onto work in the industry in areas such as film, television and coast style entertainment.

Dance

Level 3 Extended Diploma in **Dance**

On The Level 3 course in Dance, you will be taught by experienced dancers and teachers who have all worked in the professional dance industry. Our students have gone on to some of the most prestigous centres for dance. Some of them include London Contemporary Dance School, Urdang Academy, Laban, Bird College, London Studio Centre, Doreen Bird, Stella Mann, Performers, Millennium, Middlesex University and Roehampton University.

Students have the opportunity to take part in workshops with professional dance companies. We regularly go to see live dance performances as part of the dance course, and have been involved in professional performances.

The main techniques studied include ballet, jazz, contemporary, tap and urban.

Production arts

Level 3 Extended Diploma in **Production Arts**

The Level 3 Extended Diploma in Production Arts is packed with opportunities. You will work with students from other specialist areas and take a crucial role in the support of live events and performances. You will go on a range of visits and be taught by experienced practitioners. In addition, you will be taught a variety of skills which will include production planning, performing arts business, stage sound operations, stage management, scenic painting, stage wardrobe management and stage technical installation.

We also aim to develop you as a person so you not only develop skills within production art, but also grow as an individual. You will be taught the following skills; team working, presentation, research, audition, how to design a professional CV, how to organise and plan events and projects, and much more. These are invaluable skills for your progression, employability and personal development.

The development of a range of these skills is attractive to many industrial, commercial and public service organisations which recognise the relevance of training in production arts.

PERFORMING ARTS

ACTING / DANCE / MUSIC / PRODUCTION ARTS

"We all have the same taste in music and our band is influenced by Pink Floyd, Rush and Foo Fighters. At college we're challenged a bit more and encouraged to understand music of different genres"

- Archie (Student)

Level 2 and Level 3 Diploma in **Music Performance**

In partnership with NHC, the Hertfordshire College of Music (HCM) offers Level 2 and Level 3 in music performance. This is for learners who want to develop their skills within the music industry. These courses focus on learning real music industry skills with an eye on how to pursue a musical career in the future. The qualification is accredited by Rockschool (RSL); a globally recognised popular music awarding body. The qualification is industry and university recognised and assessment is based on coursework rather than exams. Every unit is Level 2 and 3 addresses the needs of the modern music industry. Students can progress onto University after completing a Music Practitioner Qualification, our Level 3 qualifications carry up to 420 UCAS points.

With constant support, we encourage all of our students to strive to acheive the best results possible and to learn everything needed to be a success in the music industry. All HCM tutors are music industry professionals with many years of experience. They will act as a coach, role model and mentor, maintaining consistently high standards for all students to aspire to.

We teach you a portfolio-style career based around areas such as performance, music technology, event management, songwriting and aspects of music business. The course includes learning to perform effectively on your chosen instrument, rehersal and performance skills including performing live, understanding relevant aspects of music technology, composing and arranging music, understanding musical styles and influences from the history of contemporary music, setting up backline for live and studio sound and recording skills.

CREATIVE MEDIA

GRAPHIC DESIGN + NEW MEDIA / FILM + SOUND PRODUCTION

Level 3 Extended Diploma in **Graphics and New Media**

Pathway 1: Video and sound
Pathway 2: Graphics and new media

This course will develop and nurture your media skills so that you can explore a specialism, such as print and publishing, interactive and web design, filmmaking and animation in depth. State of the art facilities will encourage you to produce media, which is to professional standards, interpreting assignment briefs in both independent and collaborative ways. Workshops and lessons taught using industry standard software allows you to develop skills to equip you to express your creativity in multiple ways. Within the course there will be an opportunity for you to specialise in either video and sound production, or graphics and new media in preparation for your future progression.

The course will provide you with the opportunity to exhibit your work to industry professionals, as well as visit multimedia and film centres for inspiration. The course will prepare you for an undergraduate degree in creative media, graphic design or employment within the creative industries. The qualification prepares and equips you to respond to assignments that immerse you in the creative media industries, and allows you to respond using thoroughly taught skills through your own creative expression. The lessons and weorkshops will give you the opportunity to explore stop-motion animation, single and multi-camera techniques, film editing, branding, film/TV idents, titles and credits, creating and editing podcasts, building websites and blogging, and app concept and design.

UAL Level 2 Diploma in **Creative Media**

This is an introductory course for creative students who want to explore the creative media industries such as film/sound production and graphic communication and design. You will explore the creative process through several projects in which you will create several different media products through both onscreen and print outcomes. This course will prepare you for our Level 3 Extended Diplomas in either Film and Sound Production or Graphics and Interactive Design. The course could also lead onto an apprenticeship within the media industries.

Level 1 Diploma in **Art and Design**

The Level 1 Diploma in Art and Design is a one year course, helping you explore and develop your creativity whilst learning essential art, design and media skills. The course also provides opportunities for personal development and will support you in developing your confidence in an art and design setting. Topics of study include photography, painting, drawing, model making, animation and film making.

Level 2 Diploma in **Art and Design**

The Level 2 course will provide you with the creative skills required to make informed decisions about what you would like to specialise in for Level 3 or future employment. You experiment with different art forms and you build on your practical skills and idea generation/ problem solving skills. As part of the Level 2 course you will also attend Maths and English (if you have below C grade at GCSE), work experience and enrichment, which are integral to the qualification.

Some projects will be part of a live client brief or competition that will provide you with invaluable experience and insight into the world of work and add value to your CV and course. Topics of study include painting and drawing, printmaking, textiles, media, Illustrator.

Photoshop, photography and 3D making processes.

We also aim to develop you as a person so not only will you mature as an artists, but also as an individual. You will be taught by experienced professional tutors in a supportive, creative environment.

UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in **Graphics and Interactive Design**

This course is ideal for creative students who want to explore the visual world by designing for print, advertising and interactive products. With industry experienced tutors, you will explore the visual and design industries as well as producing design products through research and ideas development to create graphic outcomes.

Key features:

- Delve deep into the print-industries by exploring layout design, typography and advertising
- Hands on learning with opportunities to incorporate your creative interests and passions
- Take part in software workshops using the Adobe Creative Suite
- Enter design work into graphic and visual competitions
- Explore the graphic communication sector with industry visits, speakers and trips

Foundation Degree in **Art and Design**

This foundation degree is the established method of entry into university degree courses in art, design, craft and communication. Universities offering these courses prefer applicants to have completed a foundation diploma prior to entry.

The course is an exciting and challenging programme of study at Level 3 and 4, aimed at students wishing to acquire transferable skills and knowledge that will enable them to cope with further study in art and design at university. These skills include self-reliant and independent working, critical thinking, intellectual curiosity and risk-taking. The programme aims to progressively develop your creative skills throughout the course. You are encouraged to work across traditional subject boundaries as you increasingly pursue your own interests and ideas.

Level 3 Extended Diploma in **Fashion**

The Level 3 Extended Diploma in Fashion & Textiles is your path to a career in the fashion and clothing industry. The fashion industry has a constant need for talented, creative people who are prepared to work hard to realise their ideas and ambitions.

Over the years, North Hertfordshire College fashion & textile courses have regularly sent students to the country's top fashion degree courses, including Central St Martins, London College of Fashion, Middlesex University, Nottingham-Trent University and more. Students have gone on to work with some of the biggest names in British fashion; Burberry, French Connction, Christopher Kane, Nicole Farhi, Joseph and Ben Sherman. Learning to generate your own fashion ideas will help you carry through every stage of the process to the final catwalk show.

Taught by professional designers and technical specialists, you will create practical outcomes that meet industry standards. Working in a creative, supportive environment, you'll learn a variety of skills including fashion illustration, pattern cutting, garment construction, textile design, printmaking, knit and fabric manipulation.

UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in **Film and Sound Production**

Do you direct movie projects with your friends? Want to write and prepare scripts? Passionate about learning through doing? This course is ideal for students who want to work as part of a team to produce moving image and sound productions. From fictional film to factual television, you will have an opportunity to apply moving image theory into practise by writing and producing a series of productions by learning how to use industry standard equipment, as well as working within a production team.

HOW DO I APPLY?

North Hertfordshire College can receive applications for full-time courses throughout the year, and will even take late applications a few weeks into the September term to ensure that you have the best chance of securing a place on a course that is right for you. Some courses do have a maximum limit of students however, so we encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

In addition, the College hosts a number of enrichment and induction activities at the start of each academic year, and we would strongly advise attending these to make new friends and begin your life at college.

Applications for part-time courses, leisure courses, and adult master classes and short course can be made throughout the year, as long as they are received prior to the course start dates.

Make an application now:

Telephone
Call our advisors on 01462 424242 who can complete your application over the phone with you and provide you with a date to meet our college staff for our full time courses.

In person
You can collect an application from our main centres at reception and receive assistance from our admissions team if required. Our admissions team will then get in contact with you once your application has been processed.

Email
Please contact us on 01462 424242 or email enquiries@nhc.ac.uk and our admissions team will arrange this for you.

ART + DESIGN

FINE ART / FASHION + MERCHANDISING

THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Now couldn't be a better time to take a course within the creative subjects as the UK's art, design and media industries flourish.

The UK has an internationally acclaimed infrastructure that includes strong cultural assets such as the Design Council, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Design Museum and world-class courses at universities.

The Creative Industries 2014

School students who engage in the arts at school are twice as likely to volunteer than those who don't engage in the arts, and are 20% more likely to volunteer as young adults

The Arts Council 2014

The creative industries provide over 1,808,000 jobs across the UK

DCMS Creative Industries Economic Estimates - June 2015

The UK has an internationally acclaimed infrastructure that includes strong cultural assets such as the Design Council, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Design Museum and world-class courses at universities.

The Creative Industries 2014

In 2013 the UK creative industries exported £17.9 billion of service around the world

DCMS Creative Industries Economic Estimates - June 2015

OUR CREATIVE COURSES

Welcome to our creative partnership

At NHC we want to take a genuinely new approach to further education, rooted in the value we can bring to students, businesses and the community we serve. We believe that our purpose spans three distinct but related imperitives; Deliver outstanding teaching and learning. Work with employers to help them engage with and invest in young talent in ways that will really work for their business. Serve as a genuine asset to the communities in which we operate.

Our Creative courses are industry led, vocationally based and high quality; opening the doors to exciting careers in the creative industries. Students who apply to us are curious, think differently and want to take risks in their subjects.

Our qualifications are with:

ual: university of the arts london awarding body

BTEC

HCM HERTFORDSHIRE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

THE CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

Subject specialist workshops

Every creative course at NHC offers subject specialist workshops with industry practitioners. Students learn about their courses from an inside industry perspective.

One to one coaching

All students benefit from regular one to one coaching that supports students in making the best of their course and prepares for taking the next step in their creative career.

Independent learning

We don't spoon feed students here! We work alongside them to help them develop the crucial skill of independent students so that they become life-long learners.

Work experience

Our students gain high quality vocational qualifications alongside a fantastic CV of the real work that we support them in obtaining.

WE ARE CREATIVE

Creative courses

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COLLEGE