

STUDENT HANDBOOK

FURTHER STAGES⁺



STAGE
COACH



An Advanced Programme: Performing Arts and the **Creative Industries**

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**"I think the new
course is a
really good
opportunity to
keep doing
something I love
whilst getting a
qualification for it
as well! "**

*- Grace
Student at Stagecoach Bolton*



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STAGE COACH

WHO WE ARE

Stagecoach Performing Arts was founded in 1988 and continues to grow as the UK's largest network of extra-curricular performing arts schools for children, with over 50,000 students enrolled in our weekly classes worldwide.

One of the first extra-curricular children's performing arts schools in the country, we aim to inspire our students, making a difference in their lives by teaching Creative Courage For Life®.

With 300 franchises and 3,000 teachers worldwide, Stagecoach operates over 2000 schools and classes and has a presence in eight countries including Canada, Germany, Malta, Spain, Gibraltar, Australia and South Africa.

Notable alumni are Emma Watson, Jamie Bell, Eleanor Tomlinson, Tuppence Middleton, Tom Fletcher, Dani Harmer, Josh Cuthbert, Danny Mac and Charlotte Jaconelli.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Further Stages+

This new programme has been created especially for students who want to explore the Performing Arts with more in-depth access to practical and professional opportunities in the creative industries. We're really proud of our Further Stages+ programme as it has been designed using insights from our own students, Principals and teachers. It's totally unique to us but most importantly, you will have fun whilst you're learning.

We know that some of you don't want more exams or written coursework on top of your existing school work so this programme is designed to meet your needs. We've partnered with Rock School Ltd. (RSL), the world's leading Contemporary Music and Performing Arts awarding body to link the programme to a Level 3 accreditation. This means that at the end of the two year period, this unique programme offers optional accreditation where you can achieve up to **28 Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) points (AS and A-Level equivalent).**





The programme includes networking opportunities with our premium partners so that you can benefit from experiences such as a technical theatre workshop, set in a theatre, during a live show where you will have the opportunity to meet, and learn from industry professionals.

We'll support you to develop personally and professionally, linking you to the best teaching and learning experiences in the classroom.

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Trafalgar Studios



T Trafalgar Studios

1 2

ORLANDO BLOOM KILLER JOE BY TRACY LETTS

Trafalgar Studios hosts innovative and classic theatre performed in two intimate venues near Trafalgar Square, London. It opened on 26th May 2004 and, with two auditoria under a single roof, was the first theatre of its kind in the heart of London's West End offering audiences a chance to see theatre that would not otherwise have found a place in the West End. Part of London's Trafalgar Studios, Studio 2, presents inspiring, thoughtful and adventurous new work from the best national and international companies. Offering a uniquely intimate theatre experience in the heart of the West End, this 100 seat studio promotes new writing and celebrates fresh talent.

"A new venue that's changing the shape of the West End." - The Times

TRAFALGAR STUDIOS IS PROUD TO MAKE ITS STUDIO 2 AVAILABLE TO
FURTHER STAGES+ SHOWCASE EVENTS.



**TRAFALGAR
ENTERTAINMENT**

OVERVIEW

Further Stages+ begins with a two year programme for students who are 14 - 18 years old. This practical programme covers core skill development in the performing arts and allows you to focus on specialist projects linked to other areas in the creative industries. Over the two-year programme, you will work to complete six project briefs.

- + A Devised Project
- + From Page to Stage
- + Creative Industries Part 1
- + Rehearse, Perform, Reflect
- + The Audition
- + Creative Industries Part 2

EACH PROJECT IS DELIVERED OVER ONE COMPLETE TERM.

This new two year Further Stages+ Programme will allow you to explore a range of performance techniques, artists, and practitioners, developing your own creative approach as well as engaging with the wider creative industries sector; e.g. experiencing the role of a Director, a sound or lighting technician, stage management, solo performance, script writing with different audiences in mind (film, radio or television).

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

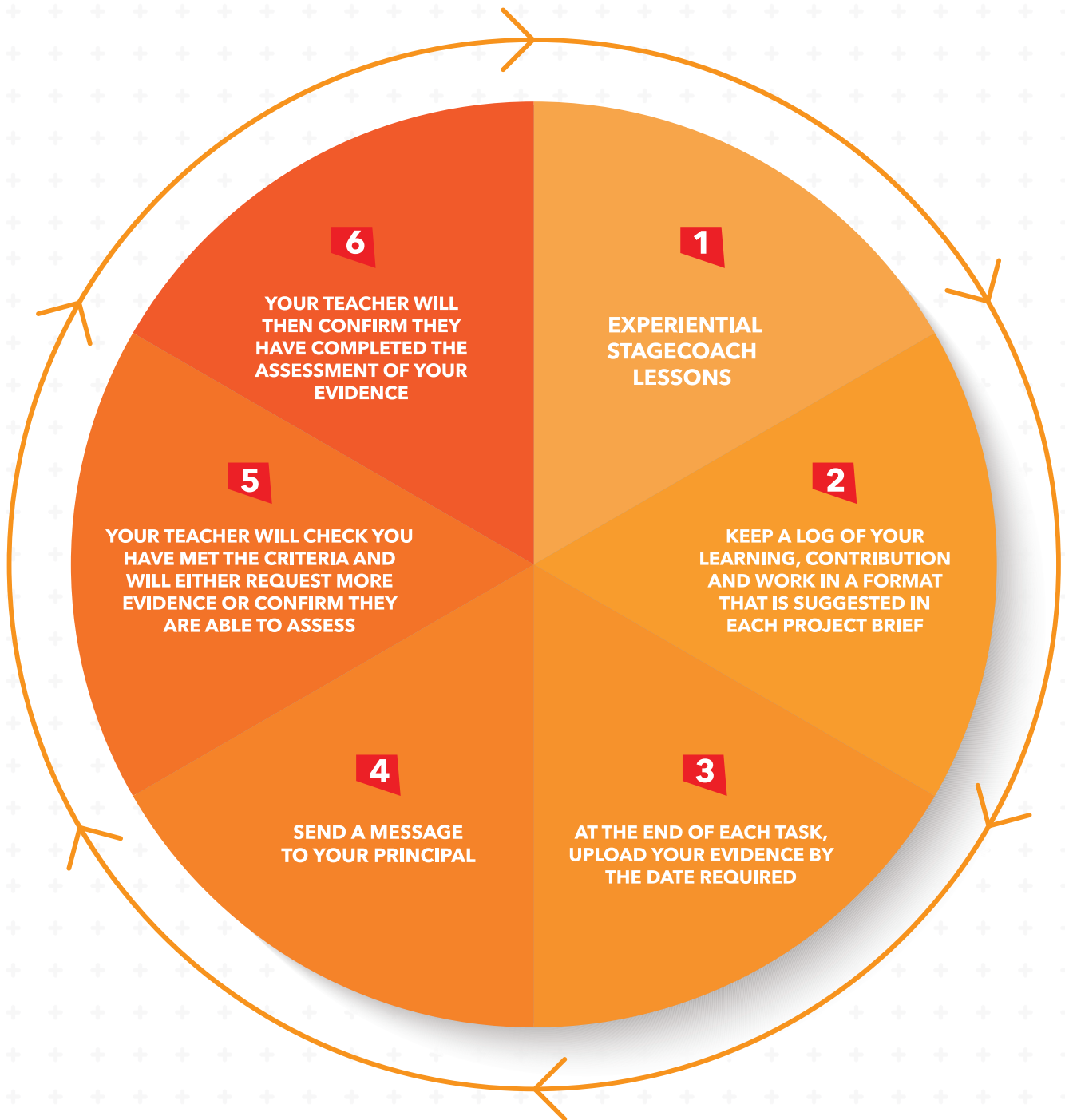
The programme is completely practical. You'll choose a mixture of video/photos /audio/ written notes to document this creative journey. You will be able to upload this digital documentation to your own portfolio online and share it with your teacher. Your portfolio of work can then be used as evidence for a RSL Level 3 Certificate in Creative and Performing Arts, assessed by your teacher and verified by your Principal

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Stagecoach Principals are committed to ensuring students are ready and equipped to engage with the Level 3 learning content. All Further Stages+ students should experience enjoyment and success when embarking on this programme. For this reason, your Stagecoach Principal reserves the right to make an informed decision when considering applications. Your Principal will also advise a suitable start date and term for you to join the programme.



ASSESSMENT JOURNEY



TWO YEAR PROGRAMME

ESSENTIAL PROGRAMME ELEMENTS*:

- + 1 x internal workshop with an industry professional (at your Stagecoach school)
- + Headshots and dress rehearsals photos (for students own portfolios)
- + A Theatre visit (options: Q & A and/or backstage tour)
- + A performance opportunity in an inspiring, external venue
- + Career Pathway support: Stagecoach offers links to industry professionals, Alumni expertise and current career advice
- + Exciting Masterclasses delivered by industry professionals

You will use an online secure portal to communicate with your Stagecoach Principal. Evidence of your work will be stored securely by your Stagecoach Principal.

ACCREDITATION:

Accreditation: RSL Level 3 Certificate in Creative and Performing Arts - Unit: 301 Live Performance and Unit:316 Music Theatre Performance. You can achieve up to **28 Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) points (AS and A-Level equivalent).**



**to be provided annually*

MODULE	TERMS	BRIEF	ACCREDITATION	VIDEO SUBMISSION	SUBMISSION DATE
DEvised PROJECT	* TERM 1	Working alongside other ensemble members, you will explore the medium of performing arts to devise, rehearse and perform your own created piece of theatre. You will need to demonstrate the process involved in working on and creating devised theatre integrating acting, singing and dance inspired by technical skills training linked to a range of practitioners/techniques and styles.	Informal Assessment	After session 1, students are to complete a video diary stating: Strengths and areas of knowledge/skills that you would like to use within the devised performance process Areas of identified development (skills, knowledge, leadership)	Skills audit: By Lesson 3 (video format)
	* TERM 2	You will be preparing for performing in an abridged musical theatre production (title of production to be determined with your teacher). You will take on a principal role and also an ensemble role. You will develop: + Skills for performance + Acting through song + Communication skills + Organisational skills	Unit 316 Musical Theatre Performance	1. Performance plan of the text, subtext and intentions and objectives of the characters you are playing 2. Performance 3. Reflection	Task 1: By Lesson 3 Task 2: By Lesson 10 or 11 Task 3: By Lesson 11 or 12
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PART 1	* TERM 3	This unit requires you to work on up to two different mini projects. Choosing options such as: + Acting for the Camera + Physical theatre + Global dance styles + Choreography + Song-writing + Film Editing + Set design + Make up and prosthetics + Lighting design + Stage direction + Working with masks or puppetry + A musical in a day (performed to an audience) + Planning and preparation for suitable repertoire for Autumn Term showcase	Informal Assessment	For a minimum of two projects: 1. Video of presentation to rest of group 2. Photos, journal notes and video diaries to document the creative process for mini project	1st mini project: by Summer Half Term 2nd mini project: by penultimate lesson of Summer term

MODULE	TERM	BRIEF	ACCREDITATION	VIDEO SUBMISSION	SUBMISSION DATE
REHEARSE PERFORM REFLECT	* TERM 1	<p>As a theatre company, you will devise, plan, rehearse and perform a short Showcase of musical theatre work. This requires each member of the group to take part in all aspects of working in a theatre company including: planning and/or leading warm ups, rehearsal schedules, technique sessions, choosing repertoire and reflection/evaluation of your own and the group's contribution. Your work will lead to a showcase performance in front of a live audience. You will work with your peers to devise a production plan for your showcase (to also include reference to Health & Safety).</p>	Unit 301: Live Performance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Production Plan (group/individual discussion in video format) 2. Live performance 3. Production & Personal evaluation 	<p>Task 1: By Lesson 3 Task 2: By Lesson 10 or 11 Task 3: By Lesson 11 or 12</p>
THE AUDITION	* TERM 2	<p>You will choose, develop and refine audition repertoire & techniques to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Demonstrate your skills and understanding of your role + Intended rehearsal plan for the audition <p>The Audition will be watched by a panel of industry specialists and you will be given written feedback from the audition panel. You will then use this to complete a reflection.</p>	Unit 301: Live Performance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verbal presentation of Audition preparation 2. Performance of Audition repertoire seen by a panel of industry specialists: live or recorded performance 3. Audition Evaluation no later than 7 days after the Audition performance 	<p>Task 1: By Lesson 3 Task 2: By Lesson 10 or 11 Task 3: By Lesson 11 or 12</p>
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PART 2	* TERM 3	<p>This unit will build on the content and learning from links with the Creative Industries Part 1. Students will begin to select areas of special interest that may guide their choices at 18+; e.g. further study or employment in the creative industries. Students will work more closely with industry professionals to plan and deliver a project based on a real work situation. At the end of this unit, students may wish to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + ADPA + Further training via Disney 'Behind the Magic' programme + HE full time and short courses offered through Stage and/or Dance schools (e.g. RADA, LAMDA, Trinity Laban) + Work placements (e.g. with a Stagecoach Franchise) + On the job training via an Apprenticeship programme + Working as a self employed practitioner 	Informal Assessment	<p>Students should evidence the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research and planning 2. Communication with relevant creative industry experts 3. Photos, journal notes and video diaries to document the creative process 	<p>Task 1: By Lesson 3 Task 2: By Lesson 10 or 11 Task 3: By Lesson 11 or 12</p>

* Please note, you can join the programme at the start of any term and gain accreditation upon completion of all project briefs within two years.



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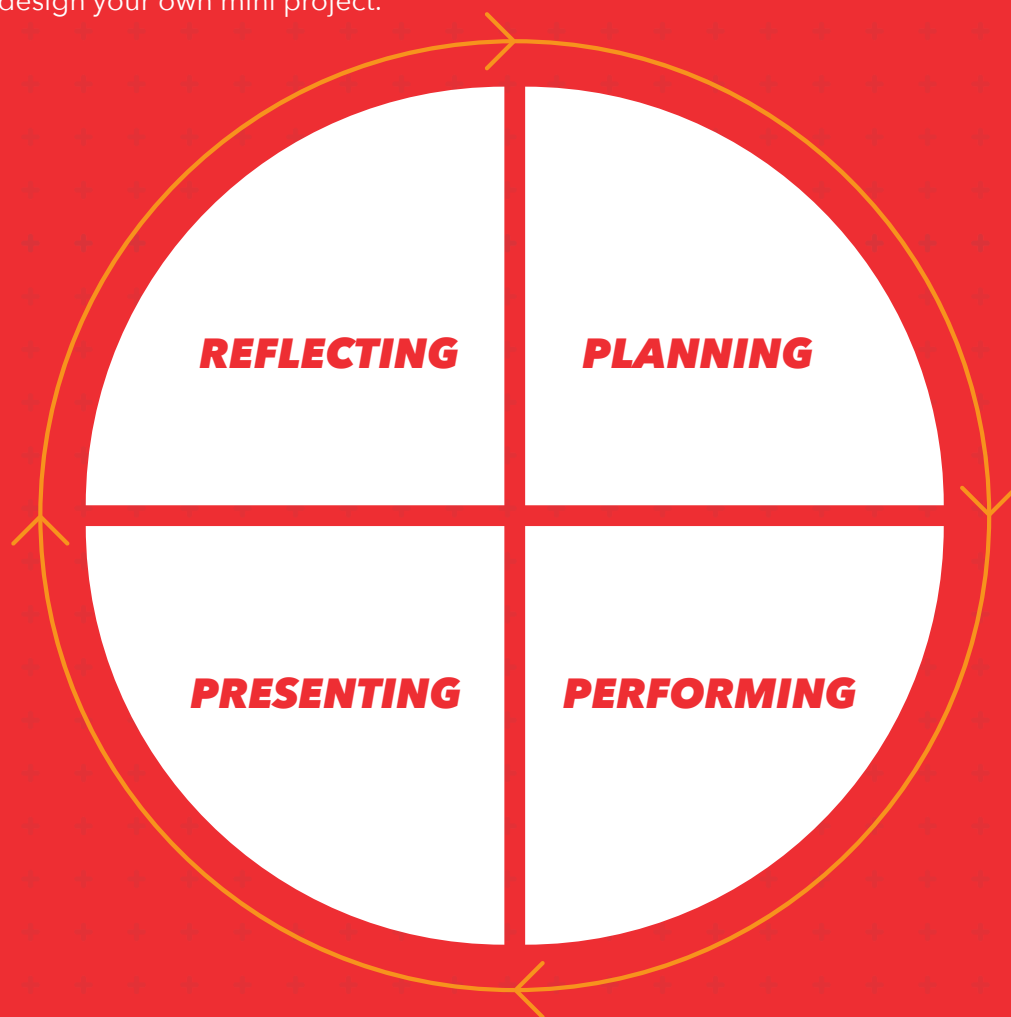
THE PROJECTS AND PROJECT BRIEFS

The content of each Project Brief sets out what you will be learning (your skill development and knowledge) and the tasks that your teacher will be assessing. Each project brief has between two and four tasks that need to be completed.

All students follow the same project at the same time which means you will work as part of a group. By the time you reach Term 3 and Term 6, you may work on different content (mini projects) and if you wish, design your own mini project.

By the time you reach Term 3 and Term 6, you may work on different content (mini projects) and if you wish, design your own mini project.

Each project follows a structure that allows you to demonstrate your development of creative and artistic skills.



ASSESSMENT AND COMPLETION OF PROJECT BRIEFS

A checklist for students will help you check you have completed and uploaded evidence for each of the Project Brief tasks.

Your teachers will assess your work. They will use the RSL criteria to confirm your work has been completed and meets the standards required. Should you wish to submit your work for the Level 3 accreditation at the end of the 2 year programme, Stagecoach/RSL will conduct the final assessment and marking.

You will collate and present evidence of your work in various formats that work best for you; e.g. you may wish to record yourself speaking (audio or video/video diary) about your work; alternatively you may prefer to prepare a written statement or upload your written project notes. Your teacher may film you or the whole group (e.g. when performing together) using a digital device such as a tablet to record interviews, discussions, self-reflection, reviews and spoken/singing performance.

TIMELINE: FOR COMPLETION OF PROJECTS

Each project has its own date for completion of task. We understand you have other personal and school commitments and have taken this into account!

Student evidence: completion of Project Briefs

Evidence of work uploaded. Format of evidence can include film, audio, video diary, written statements, annotations of interviews or discussions, visual images, diagrams, blogs, web/ hyperlinks to events that the student has participated in etc.

Teacher Assessment

Teacher assessment of project tasks will confirm completion of tasks and evidence uploaded that meets the standards required for submission to RSL Level 3

Level 3 Accreditation (with UCAS points)

At the end of the two year programme, students who wish to submit their evidence to Stagecoach/RSL, may do so.

SAFE PRACTICE IN THE CLASSROOM

It is important that you feel safe in our Further Stages+ environment and your work remains your property. With this in mind, we have set expectations regarding the use of digital resources and sharing of your creative work. You can see Top Tips for Further Stages+ that sets out our expectations to ensure confidentiality and safety.





CREATIVE INDUSTRY WORKSHOPS & OPPORTUNITIES

Your Principal and teacher will let you know the titles and dates of professional masterclasses and workshops that you can participate in.

At least one workshop will take place in your own Stagecoach school and one will take place at a different venue. The 'different venue' workshop may take place in a professional setting such as a theatre, dance or recording studio.

Stagecoach Performing Arts provides a great range of events for you to participate in; alternatively your teacher may set up an event specific to your Stagecoach school in partnership with an industry professional. How exciting!

1x WORKSHOP	<i>Delivered in your own Stagecoach school setting</i>
1x WORKSHOP	<i>Delivered in an external setting</i>
1x EVENT	<i>Participation in an event (e.g. Regional or London based) organised by Stagecoach or participation in an event organised by your own school</i>

So that Stagecoach can support you on your choice of career path, the Further Stages+ Programme will include access to specialist expertise and resources to help you prepare your personal portfolio (e.g. headshots, photos of you taken during dress rehearsals/performances and advise how to prepare a personal statement). This is an essential step to prepare you for an audition or interview leading to your choice of continuing education or setting out into the world of work.

TOOL & RESOURCES

You and your Stagecoach Principal will use a secure online portal to communicate and share programme content and student learning resources. This will contain information about the Further Stages+ programme content and student learning resources. During the two year programme more information will be uploaded that relates to Career Pathway in the Creative Industries sector.

Your Principal will provide your teacher with a tablet to be used to document skills development and track progress.

You are required to equip yourself with a note-pad to keep a log of your work/notes in sessions. You may take photos to support your transcribed notes. All notes and photos related to the evidence for completion of each task can be shared with your Principal who will then upload your documents to the secure online portal.

DIGITAL PLATFORM



WHAT'S NEXT?

At the end of the two year period, you may wish to submit your work for a Level 3 qualification. This will be accredited by RSL and you could achieve up to **28 Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) points (AS and A-Level equivalent)**. If you choose to complete the programme but not submit your evidence of work for accreditation, you will be awarded a certificate of completion by Stagecoach Performing Arts.

The two year programme is not the end of Further Stages+

After the programme, you will be able to consider your next steps which could be one or more of the following:

- + Further Education subjects or vocational qualifications
- + Higher Education if you are over 18
- + Application for Apprenticeship
- + Self employment or employment.





CAREER PATH SUPPORT 16+

Choose your area of specialism and Stagecoach can support/signpost:

Further Stages+ and the Extended Level 3 Certificate



External industry work experience opportunity



Workshops with our extended premium partnerships (eg Disney)



CAREER PATH SUPPORT 18+

After the programme, you will be able to consider your next steps which could be one or more of the following:

- + Higher Education courses (degree level and Masters)
- + ADPA Teaching Diploma Programme
- + Placement as a performer / technical / business
- + Self-employed - addressing: well-being, tax, publicity and marketing
- + Short courses with reputed establishments (eg Pineapple, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, LAMDA, RADA, etc.)



+ FAQs

Q1. What is the difference between Further Stages and Further Stages+?

Our Further Stages programme is designed to provide students with a more advanced creative experience during their time at Stagecoach. Many students build upon core skills that they have already attained during their time with us. The Further Stages+ programme enriches that experience even further expanding learning into different technical areas, forming links with professionals in the creative industries and providing more practical performing arts experience i.e. in the workplace. It is also underpinned by optional accreditation **(where you can achieve up to 28 UCAS points)** which our students often desire to help with their future careers.

Q2. If another student in the FS+ group leaves or is absent for several weeks, does this affect me being able to continue with the FS+ programme?

A change in group numbers will not adversely affect your place on the programme or your choice to progress to the Level 3 qualification

Q3. When do I need to make a decision regarding entering the Level 3 qualification?

At the end of Spring 2020. This is when you will have finished uploading your evidence for project Brief: Musical Theatre Performance.

Q4. If I change my mind during the two year programme and decide not to continue, can I still remain part of the FS+ group?

Yes. You will continue to study the same learning content as your peers. The only difference is that you will not be required to upload evidence of your work.

Q5. What happens if I am absent for several weeks? Can I continue with the programme?

We know there are many reasons for absence. Keep your Principal and teachers informed so they know which weeks you will be absent (if you know ahead of time yourself). This will allow your teachers and your peers to continue their work. Your teacher may advise how you can catch up on work and help prepare you for your next session. This is especially relevant to the three RSL project Briefs.

Q6. Do I have to be really good at all three disciplines (singing, dancing, acting) to be able to cope with the course content?

Stagecoach recognises everyone has their own starting point and that most students are likely to have one discipline that is stronger/more advanced than the other disciplines. The programme content takes this into account so we are confident you will cope well with the repertoire and lesson content.

Q7. How will I know how to upload my evidence of work?

You will receive instructions from your teachers and also a written explanation in your personal learning area of the student portal. All evidence will need to be uploaded via your computer.

Q8. What if I am not happy with one of the pieces of evidence that I have uploaded? Can I re-record and upload again?

If the work recorded does not require other students to repeat a performance, presentation or discussion, you may re-record and re-upload. That said, the work cannot be re-recorded or re-uploaded after the 're-submission' date for that specific project Brief.

Q9. Are all Project Briefs assessed?

All Project Briefs are checked and verified by your teachers. Your teacher will not award a grade for your work. Evidence uploaded for the RSL Project Briefs are used by Stagecoach/RSL to assess and award an overall grade should you wish to be entered for the Level 3 Qualification.

Q10. How many UCAS points can I achieve?

You can earn up to **28 UCAS points** which may help you secure a place at your chosen university.



**“When I heard about
this course, I was so
excited as it gives
me opportunities
that I wouldn’t have
previously had and
it allows me to work
and expand on all
three disciplines”**

*- Sophie
Stagecoach Stanmore and Harrow Weald*



FURTHER STAGES⁺



Creative Courage For Life[®]

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