

# WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS



## LAMDA Performance & Communication Tuition (Years 7 to 9) (2026-27)

Westcliff High School for Boys has a reputation for encouraging outstanding performance, excellent public speaking, and good quality self-presentation. Our commitment to offering a LAMDA Programme for our pupils reflects the importance of this area at the School, and we are pleased to work alongside high quality and well trained LAMDA tutors in this objective. We have been delighted that this course has become such a popular and staple part of pupil's development across Years 7 to 9, and we share the view of parents that these represent essential, valuable skills for their sons to build as they start their secondary school careers. We are delighted to offer courses in Public Speaking, Acting, and Verse & Prose, and the School is an Examinations Centre for LAMDA.

### **COURSES AVAILABLE**

#### **Taster Sessions**

Pupils new to the School can choose to attend an initial Taster Course of three, weekly, 30-minute sessions, at the cost set out below.

Once these three sessions have been completed, your son will then choose which pathway to follow on the Full Course, should he choose to continue (as pupils overwhelmingly do).

#### **LAMDA Programme of Lessons**

Pupils will receive a 30-minute lesson each week for 30 weeks of the School Year (25 weeks in Year 7). These lessons are to be delivered in a group of no more than 3 pupils, and will be payable in line with the details below for the course of lessons. By the end of this course, we aim to ensure that your son is ready to undertake a LAMDA Examination.

#### **Examinations**

You/your son may choose, after the course is complete, to proceed to a LAMDA examination. The School is an approved centre for LAMDA Examinations and there is a programme of examination entry each year, with these examinations undertaken at the School and within the School Day.

The cost of entering examinations will depend on the LAMDA grades undertaken. Final costs and entry details will be confirmed before your son is entered but are likely to be around £60-£90.

## **Timetabling**

Lessons will take place during the school day and are timetabled on a rotational system, with pupils attending at a different time on the same day every week. Pupils who are timetabled during a teaching period will only miss part of a lesson and, due to the rotational system, these pupils will not miss the same lesson regularly. Pupils are responsible for catching up on any work that has been missed during their LAMDA lesson. By signing the Contract, you acknowledge and accept the responsibility that your child may be scheduled during School lessons and once timetabled may not be able to be moved (although we will try to support pupils' particular circumstances and preferences where possible in our scheduling). If you have any specific timetabling requests, please make them known on the LAMDA Tuition Request Form. It is possible that timetables will change as the term progresses. Any pupil affected by timetable changes will be informed.

## **Confirmation of Lessons, Costs and Payment**

Once your son's sign-up to the taster sessions is complete, the School will request payment via the online *ParentPay* system. In the 2025-26 Academic Year, the cost was £37 for the three-week Taster Course and £310 for the full 25-week course. The cost in the 2026-27 Academic Year will be subject to an inflationary increase, and the final cost will be confirmed to parents at the earliest possible opportunity and before final bookings are taken.

For pupils in Years 8 and above, payment for the full course of lessons will be payable in advance at the start of the School Year. For pupils in Year 7, an initial payment will be payable by 1 September for the three week Taster Course. In the second week of the Taster Course, there will be the opportunity to sign up for the Full Course, with this cost payable by the last Monday of the first half term of the Autumn Term. The Full Course will then run after half term for a 25 week course.

It will not be possible to sign up after 30 October in each School Year without first contacting the Director of Drama to discuss availability.

## **Timetabling of Lessons**

When timetables have been created, the School will send individual copies to those pupils who have requested lessons. Where possible, the timetables will also be on display on the Drama Notice Board and on the LAMDA Teams page, which pupils should check regularly. The School will endeavour to meet individual timetabling requests but this is not always possible and is up to the discretion of the Director of Drama if any problems occur. LAMDA Taster Course lessons will usually begin in the second or third week of term. The full LAMDA Programme will usually begin in the second half of term for pupils in Year 7, and within the first half of term for pupils in Year 8 and above.

## **Attendance**

Pupils are expected to attend every LAMDA lesson and responsible for attending their LAMDA lessons punctually. If a pupil is unable to attend a lesson because of illness or because of involvement in another School activity, we should be grateful if parents would let the School know as soon as possible. It is sometimes possible for the lesson to be rescheduled or made up at a later time, though this cannot be guaranteed.

## **Remote Learning**

In the event of a Public Health pandemic or other debilitating national event, it may be necessary for lessons to be delivered online via Microsoft Teams. By signing up to lessons, you acknowledge that there is a possibility that lessons may be delivered online.

## **Cancellations**

Due to the nature of the LAMDA course, and the need to engage instructors upfront to fulfill the teaching requirements of the **full** course, we regret that it will not be possible to give refunds in cases where pupils withdraw from the course, having signed up. The taster sessions are designed to help avoid such circumstances arising, and unlike many other extra-curricular activities, there is no practical scope to bring in replacements and mitigate lost income.

## **Practice**

Pupils will only obtain lasting benefits from their LAMDA lessons if they do regular practice at home during the week, as well as completing any homework set, and pupils must be committed and motivated in their study. We encourage parents to help their children to establish a regular practice routine; shorter periods of thoughtful practice are far better than longer periods of just reading through pieces.

## **Performing, Festivals, and Examinations**

In addition to the main LAMDA and Drama Performances, pupils have the opportunity to perform within the classroom or at Assemblies, and in House and community competitions.

## **Reports**

Parents will receive a written report on their child's progress in the final term. Parents are very welcome at any time to contact the LAMDA teacher if they have any concerns via the Director of Drama. In the first instance, contact should be made through the relevant Pastoral Office.