

Statement of Commitment to Access, Participation and the Public Good 2026–27

For over half a century, Laine Theatre Arts has been preparing talented performers for professional careers in the performing arts.

Building on our longstanding commitment to excellence in vocational training, we are strengthening our approach to widening access and promoting equality of opportunity. We believe exceptional talent can come from every background, and we are working to ensure that talented individuals are not unnecessarily prevented from accessing specialist higher education because of financial, geographical, educational or social barriers.

We recognise that different groups experience different barriers to accessing and succeeding in specialist higher education. Our approach is informed by evidence from our own data, evaluation and sector knowledge, enabling us to identify where barriers exist and target our resources where they can have the greatest impact.

This Statement describes how Laine Theatre Arts is working to widen access, promote equality of opportunity and support student success, while maintaining the exceptional quality of vocational training for which the College is known.

Our responsibility is therefore not only to deliver exceptional training, but also to reduce barriers wherever it is within our power to do so, ensuring that talent and potential remain at the heart of our approach to recruitment, education and student success.

Our Objectives

Building on our commitment to excellence in vocational training, Laine Theatre Arts seeks to:

- **Widen access** by reducing barriers that may prevent talented individuals from engaging with specialist higher education and vocational performing arts training.
- **Promote equality of opportunity** through inclusive recruitment, targeted outreach and admissions practices that recognise talent and potential wherever they are found.
- **Support student success** by providing an inclusive learning environment in which students are able to participate fully, achieve their potential and complete their studies successfully.
- **Prepare students for sustainable professional careers** through high-quality conservatoire training, industry engagement and opportunities that support progression into employment.
- **Contribute to the public good** by working in partnership with schools, colleges, community organisations and the performing arts sector to widen participation, enrich cultural life and promote the value of creative education.
- **Continuously improve our approach** by evaluating the effectiveness of our interventions, monitoring equality of opportunity risks and using evidence to strengthen access, participation and student success.

Understanding Barriers to Opportunity

We recognise that talented individuals do not all begin their educational journey from the same starting point.

Some prospective students may have had limited access to high-quality dance, drama or musical theatre training. Others may face financial pressures, live in areas with fewer progression opportunities, have caring responsibilities, experience disability or additional learning needs, or simply lack the confidence or knowledge to consider specialist higher education as a realistic option.

We also recognise that some groups remain under-represented within higher education and the performing arts. Our approach is informed by our own admissions data, student feedback and engagement with the wider sector, enabling us to identify where barriers continue to exist and where our activities can have the greatest impact.

Particular attention is given to supporting applicants from lower socio-economic backgrounds, under-represented ethnic communities, disabled students and those with additional learning needs, boys and young men in disciplines where participation remains disproportionately low, and others who face financial, geographical, educational or cultural barriers to specialist performing arts training.

We recognise that no single intervention can address every equality of opportunity risk. Our approach is therefore to identify where barriers exist, understand the evidence and target our resources where they can make the greatest difference.

Widening Access

Our outreach programme is designed to raise aspirations, build confidence and help prospective students understand the opportunities available through specialist higher education. Working with schools, colleges, youth organisations, community partners and industry organisations across the UK, we deliver regional workshops, school and college visits, Open Events, Experience Theatre Days and careers events that introduce prospective students to conservatoire training and progression into the performing arts profession.

These activities include practical workshops, mock auditions, careers guidance and question-and-answer sessions delivered by our faculty, graduates and industry professionals. Together, they help prospective students develop confidence, understand the realities of professional training and make informed decisions about higher education.

Alongside our wider outreach programme, we have developed targeted interventions that respond to equality of opportunity risks identified through our analysis of student data, evaluation and sector evidence.

Supported Admissions Scheme

Our Supported Admissions Scheme provides additional guidance and practical support for eligible applicants who may face barriers during the application and audition process. Through tailored advice, guidance, signposting and financial support, the scheme helps

prospective students approach specialist higher education with greater confidence while ensuring that admissions decisions continue to focus on talent, potential and commitment.

Scouting Outreach Programme

Our Scouting Outreach Programme works with working graduates and partner organisations across the UK to identify emerging talent from a wide range of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Through free events, auditions and, where appropriate, travel support, the programme helps talented young people explore progression into specialist performing arts training.

Broadening Representation

Our targeted outreach activities seek to engage communities that remain under-represented within specialist performing arts training. Partnerships and initiatives such as **AYD100 with Artistry Youth Dance Company, Young Legends with Epsom and Ewell Borough Council** and **Boys' Day** provide tailored opportunities, visible role models and practical guidance that encourage participation, build confidence and broaden access to conservatoire education.

Creating Pathways into Higher Education

Open Events and Experience Theatre Days provide prospective students, teachers and families with the opportunity to experience life at Laine Theatre Arts, meet current students and staff, observe training and gain a deeper understanding of higher education and careers in the performing arts.

Regional workshops extend these opportunities across the UK, enabling students to experience conservatoire-level teaching closer to home while strengthening relationships with schools, colleges and local performing arts organisations.

The introduction of our Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Musical Theatre has created an additional pathway into higher education, broadening participation by providing another route through which talented students can develop their skills, experience conservatoire training and progress towards professional careers.

Together, these activities help talented individuals develop their potential and explore progression into higher education.

Supporting Student Success

Creating opportunities to enter higher education is only the first step. We are equally committed to ensuring that students who join Laine Theatre Arts are supported to participate fully in College life, achieve their potential and progress into professional careers.

The intensive nature of specialist vocational training places high expectations on students, both academically and professionally. We therefore aim to create an environment in which students feel supported, challenged and able to thrive throughout their studies.

Students have access to academic guidance, pastoral support and wellbeing services, alongside opportunities to contribute to College life through student representation and feedback. We recognise that every student's journey is different and continually review our support to ensure it responds to changing needs and reflects good practice across the higher education sector.

Our Access and Participation Committee plays an important role in this work. Bringing together staff, students, alumni and industry professionals, the Committee reviews current activity, considers student experience and helps shape the continued development of inclusive practice across the College. This collaborative approach ensures that lived experience informs decision-making and supports continuous improvement.

We continue to develop mentoring opportunities, enabling current students to benefit from the experience of graduates and industry professionals as they prepare for employment.

Reducing Financial Barriers

We recognise that specialist vocational training represents a significant financial commitment for many students and their families.

The intensive nature of conservatoire education, together with the specialist facilities, extensive contact hours and industry expertise required to deliver professional training, means that the College cannot remove every financial barrier. We are, however, committed to reducing avoidable barriers wherever it is within our power to do so.

Support includes audition fee waivers for eligible applicants, funded outreach opportunities, scholarships and bursaries where funding is available, and Dance and Drama Awards (DaDAs) for eligible programmes. Through our Supported Admissions Scheme and outreach activities, prospective students also receive clear information about the financial support available to them, enabling them to make informed decisions about applying to and studying at Laine Theatre Arts.

The College continues to work with charitable trusts, donors and philanthropic partners to strengthen the financial assistance available to current and prospective students. While resources are necessarily finite, we remain committed to seeking new opportunities that help talented students access specialist higher education.

Preparing Students for Professional Careers and Contributing to the Public Good

Preparing students for professional careers has always been central to the mission of Laine Theatre Arts. Alongside high-quality vocational training, students benefit from regular engagement with industry professionals, visiting practitioners, alumni and employers through workshops, productions, mentoring and professional development activities that prepare them for employment in the performing arts and wider creative industries.

Our contribution to the public good extends beyond the College through partnerships with schools, colleges, community organisations and industry partners. By sharing expertise, supporting teachers and young people, creating progression pathways and delivering outreach activities across the UK, we aim to widen participation, enrich cultural life and

encourage more talented individuals to consider higher education and careers in the creative industries.

These partnerships also strengthen the wider performing arts sector by promoting collaboration, supporting emerging talent and encouraging greater participation in creative education. In doing so, Laine Theatre Arts seeks not only to prepare the next generation of performers, but also to make a positive and lasting contribution to the communities and industries we serve.

Monitoring, Investment and Governance

Access and participation are ongoing commitments rather than fixed objectives. We review our progress through admissions and student data, participant feedback, outreach evaluation, student outcomes and the work of the Access and Participation Committee. This evidence-informed approach enables us to evaluate the impact of our interventions, monitor emerging equality of opportunity risks and ensure that resources continue to be directed towards the areas where they can have the greatest impact.

Delivering meaningful access, participation and public good activity also requires sustained institutional investment. During 2026–27, the College will invest at least 4.9% of its total fee income in delivering the objectives and activities set out in this Statement and the Public Good Statement.

The College's Access and Participation objectives, targets and activities are approved annually by the Board of Directors on the recommendation of the Senior Management Committee. Progress is reviewed termly by the Access and Participation Committee, with oversight provided by the Senior Management Committee and strategic assurance maintained by the Board of Directors to ensure that the College's approach remains aligned with its mission, values and strategic priorities.

Looking Ahead

Building on our reputation for excellence in vocational training, Laine Theatre Arts will continue to strengthen its approach to widening access, promoting equality of opportunity and supporting student success.

By listening to students, working collaboratively with schools, communities and industry partners, and continually evaluating our practice, we aim to ensure that exceptional talent is recognised, nurtured and developed wherever it is found, while maintaining the exceptional quality of training that defines Laine Theatre Arts.