

ACADEMY BREAKIN' CONVENTION - ADMISSIONS POLICY 2023-24

Academy Breakin' Convention (ABC) is part of Sadler's Wells Trust Ltd (SWT) and is delivered in partnership with Big Creative Training (BCT). All ABC policies are overseen by SWT and in accordance with the policies of BCT.

1. Overview and mission statement

- a. Academy Breakin' Convention recruits in partnership with Big Creative Training (BCT). Please note that the two organisations operate separate and distinct admissions policies.
- b. ABC is a programme for 16 to 19 year olds to study a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts, specific to Hip Hop Theatre. Our curriculum is specialised and offers training that provides links to the creative sector.
- c. Learners will study the 7 ABC elements of Hip Hop: Breaking, DJing, Emcee, Graffiti, Music Production, Popping, and Social Dances with an emphasis on utilising them as theatrical tools with a focus on production and technical creation. Pastoral care will support student's personal development and wellbeing. There will be additional industry-specific learning with visiting experts. Some candidates may also study maths or English which will be assessed on an individual basis.
- d. ABC has strong links with industry that will help ensure young people have the skills, experience and knowledge to progress in their chosen careers.
- e. We seek to engage learners that have an interest and aptitude in creative subjects and may not have had access to excellent specialist teaching and equipment thus far in this phase of their education.

2. Admissions criteria

- a. ABC's admissions policy will be clear, fair and transparent. ^[L]_[SEP]
- b. ABC operates as its own admissions authority.
- c. Our Admissions Policy is published on our website at <https://academybreakinconvention.com/>
- d. The admissions policy includes the minimum academic requirements for entry, and how places will be allocated post online application and successful audition.

3. Entry requirements

- a. Applicants must be between the ages of 16-18 on the 31st of August in the year of admission.
- b. Applicants who hold an EHCP will be assessed on an individual basis.
- c. Applicants for Level 3 courses must Students are expected to have 5 GCSES at grade 4 – 9 including English / Maths (or equivalent).
- d. ABC will assess on an individual basis whether we will support a student who is dedicated and committed to obtaining their GCSEs during their ABC studies.
- e. Prospective learners will be offered places on a conditional basis until they receive their GCSE results. ^[L]_[SEP]
- f. Interested applicants who have taken iGCSEs or other alternative or foreign qualifications should contact ABC to discuss what our equivalent minimum expectations are.

4. **Application and admissions process**

- a. Learners or parents / guardians may obtain course information in the following ways:
- i. by visiting our website <https://academybreakinconvention.com/>
 - ii. written request to academy@breakinconvention.com
- b. All online applicants who meet the minimum entry requirements will have their answer to the question and video entry assessed by two expert panels for shortlisting.
- c. All shortlisted candidates will need to audition for the course. The purpose of auditions is to establish the applicant's aptitude and talent.
- d. All shortlisted candidates will be entitled to take part in free audition preparation workshops which will support candidates in completing the remaining enrolment information and audition requirements.
- e. ABC will admit learners who are able to demonstrate:
- The discipline and creativity required to successfully complete a level 3 course.
 - A clear commitment to learn and develop as an artist and future leader.
 - A passion for creating hip hop focused work with a desire to develop theatrically.
 - Aspirations to pursue and sustain a career within the creative industries.

These criteria will be assessed by experienced ABC staff and expert panelists. using a combination of the following sources of information

For Shortlisting:

- Assessment of initial question: "What do you hope to develop at Academy Breakin' Convention?" Maximum 150 words
- Portfolio of work (electronic submission online): A 1-minute video of you performing at least 1 of the 7 ABC elements: Breaking, DJing, Emcee, Graffiti, Music Production, Popping, and Social Dance.

For auditions:

- Dance short choreography of Breaking, Popping, Hip Hop Social Dance with an opportunity to freestyle (in a group or individually).
- Emceeing: memorised to music and read/memorised acapella,
- Graffiti: a small creative task.
- A short interview revisiting the question "What do you hope to develop at Academy Breakin' Convention?" with an opportunity for candidates to ask questions to the ABC team.

f. Any unsuccessful candidates can request feedback via email. This will be provided following the closing of applications and shortlisting period.

g. Once all shortlisted applicants have been interviewed and assessed the admissions team will meet to discuss the candidates and award places. Decisions to offer a place will be based on eligibility, aptitude and potential. ^[SEP]

h. Successful conditional/unconditional auditionees will be informed via an offer letter detailing any conditions (for example achievement of grades to meet eligibility criteria).

i. Unsuccessful applicants will also be informed via letter.

j. Applicants offered a place must formally accept the offer within 14 days of the date of the letter or the offer may be withdrawn.

5. **Learners with Education, Health and Care Plans**

a. ABC will admit learners with an EHCP where the plan names ABC and the learner meets the minimum entry requirements. This admittance is subject to ABC conducting an

assessment and being able to meet the learner's needs, with reasonable adjustments, and when the correct funding is in place from the local authority. We will operate in accordance with the SEN code of practice at all times.

6. Learners who are high risk

- a. ABC will risk assess learners it deems to be of high risk to themselves or others.
- b. The risk assessment will take a broad view and will gather information from as wide a range of sources as possible, including but not limited to the following sources:
 - i. The learner and their parents / carers
 - ii. The police
 - iii. Social services
 - iv. YOT team
 - v. Previous school or college
 - vi. Other services that may be supporting the learner
- c. We reserve the right not to offer a place, or to withdraw an existing offer, if our risk assessment demonstrates any of the following:
 - i. The learner poses an unacceptably high risk to themselves or others, and we are not able to mitigate those risks.
 - ii. With reasonable adjustments we are not able to meet the learner's needs.
 - iii. Specialist intervention is required which we are not able to provide.
 - iv. We believe another environment will better meet the needs of the young person.

7. Waiting list

- a. ABC will notify candidates if they are placed on the waiting list and inform them of their place on the list in order to enable them to evaluate their options.
- b. Waiting list applicants offered a place must formally accept the offer within 7 days of the date of the letter or the offer may be withdrawn.
- c. ABC will notify candidates if they are placed on the waiting list and inform them of their place on the list in order to enable them to evaluate their options.
- d. Waiting list applicants offered a place must formally accept the offer within 7 days of the date of the letter or the offer may be withdrawn.
- e. It may be that some applicants do not receive their predicted grades or decide not to attend ABC for whatever reason in which case people on the waiting list will be offered the places in order.
- f. Applicants' places will be held on the waiting list until such time as they are offered a place, or they request in writing to be removed from the waiting list.

8. Admissions appeals

- a. The objectives of the admissions appeals procedure are to ensure that:
 - i. applicants are able to have concerns about the admissions process heard.
 - ii. ABC's admissions appeals procedures are clear.
 - iii. Throughout the process of admissions, the proper procedures are followed
- b. If an applicant is not offered a place and the applicant believes that this is because the admissions procedure has not been properly and fairly applied, they may appeal in writing to the Director of Operations joce.giles@sadlerswells.com .
- c. This letter must refer to the admissions criteria and should detail the reasons for the appeal. Appeals must be received in writing within 20 days of the date of the application decision letter.
- d. ABC will write acknowledging receipt of the appeal. If we are not satisfied that the appeal is made on an allowable basis (i.e. failure by ABC to follow its published admissions



Academy Breakin' Convention
Sadler's Wells East
101 Carpenters Rd
London E20 2AR

academybreakinconvention.com

procedure) the letter will say this and there will be no further consideration of the matter.

e. If the appeal is allowable the DOO will decide whether to:

iv. uphold the original decision to refuse a place.

v. or refer the application back to be considered afresh.

f. The decision of the DOO is final and will be communicated in writing within 20 days of the appeal.

9. **Late applications**

a. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

10. **Equality and diversity**

a. ABC, in operating admission arrangements, will do everything it reasonably can to enable every learner to perform at their best, and in making acceptance decisions will not discriminate between learners on grounds of gender, disability, faith, ethnicity, sexual preference or any other protected characteristic.

Last updated	Next review	Person responsible
October 2023	July 2024	Niquelle LaTouche