



# **Admissions Policy (Professional Students)**

## **2019 - 2020**

THE HAMMOND SCHOOL LTD., MANNINGS LANE, CHESTER, CH2 4ES

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The Hammond School Limited is registered in England and Wales Number 838325. Registered office is above. Charity Number 1022427 incorporating the Betty Hassall Foundation. The school is accredited by the I.S.A and C.D.E.T. and is a member of the B.S.A and I.S.I.

Auditions take place throughout the academic year. These are necessary in order to assess the suitability of the candidate both physically and mentally to embark upon the intensive training offered at The Hammond and to assess their previous training and experience.

**Accredited Prior Learning** – acknowledges that if an applicant has gained prior knowledge and or skills in aspects of part of the qualification, the applicant may have the capacity to acquire the additional skills and knowledge needed to complete the qualification over a reduced period of time.

**Audition Criteria:**

The audition panel considers candidate's suitability in physique and potential for a career in the profession. Assessment takes place in technical proficiency, musicality, artistry and performance. Whilst a high standard is expected, extensive previous training is not always necessary.

As from September 2012, The Hammond has a 'combined first year' whereby all students are auditioned for both dance and musical theatre. Following assessment and discussion at the completion of year one, students are advised of their suitability to specialise in either musical theatre or dance.

**The Audition comprises of:**

- Classical Ballet
- Contemporary
- Jazz
- Vocal Assessment (choice of two songs)
- Acting Assessment
- A prepared dance solo lasting no longer than 1 minute (any style of dance) followed by an interview with the audition panel for selected candidates.
- Physical Assessment by the Course Physiotherapists

Parents are given the opportunity to talk to the Principal, Vice Principal (Director of Performance), Director of Senior School Dance, Vice Principal (Director of Teaching and Learning), and the Pastoral Leader for Year 12. Discussions take place concerning student welfare and accommodation and funding. A tour of the Hammond is also given.

### **Equal Opportunities/Disability Policy**

The Hammond has an Equal Opportunities and Disability Policy which is designed to ensure access to the curriculum regardless of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, socio-economic background, colour, race, nationality, and ethnic origin, sensory or physical disability.

Dance/Musical Theatre are precise physical art forms concerned with shape, line, co-ordination, musical and performance qualities. It is within these parameters that The Hammond welcomes candidates with disabilities to audition for a place on the Course. It is recognised that some candidates with a disability who are entered for audition may need extra time or support to enable them to perform to the best of their ability and, if possible, The Hammond will make the appropriate arrangements. It is, however, emphasised that all candidates will be assessed against the same criteria.

A parent/guardian/teacher of a candidate must inform The Hammond of any special arrangements needed prior to audition either on the application form or by letter.

If there is any doubt about a student's ability to fulfil the assessment criteria for audition please contact the Denise Charles, Registrar.

At the conclusion of the audition candidates are guaranteed a written result within one week.

### **Overseas Candidates**

Overseas candidates are not expected to attend audition. A DVD may be sent demonstrating the candidate's ability in: Ballet, Jazz, Vocal and Acting lasting no longer than five minutes dance and five minutes other. The Senior audition panel at The Hammond will judge as to the suitability of the candidate.

The DVD must also show the candidates flexibility for movement i.e. splits – both legs, box splits, forwards and back bends. It is also helpful to demonstrate any singing/vocal ability. Candidates are asked to complete and return all information requested on the application

form together with the DVD recording and an assessment will then be made as to their suitability to attend the course. Once the information has been provided to The Hammond, the Assistant Principal, Artistic, will write to the candidate informing them as to whether or not they have been accepted to The Hammond. All the information required, can be found on the website under 'Overseas Candidates'.



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