

HAMPSTEAD FINE ARTS COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025



We opened our Parkhill Campus in September. This is a wonderful addition to Centre Studios on Englands Lane. The campus will provide additional spaces for teaching performing arts, photography, art, dance, music and academic subjects. We now have student and tutor common rooms, flexible outdoor space and a separate 120-seat theatre. We have a unique focus on both academic and creative subjects in both Centre Studios and Parkhill campuses.

The Parkhill Campus has significant historic links to the arts in Belsize Park. The area was the birthplace of British Modernism in the 1930s: sculptors Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore lived and worked at the Mall Studios on Parkhill Road.

Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus School, abstract artists Naum Gabo and Piet Mondrian were part of the Belsize Park scene, and Wells Coates designed the Isokon building, close by on Lawn Road.

Jude Law officially opened The Law Theatre during our Gala Performance on 15th November, a music and drama celebration. Students performed *The Watsons* by Laura Wade. Jude Law said: 'It is an honour to open The Law Theatre, a dedicated space that will take performing arts to the next level, enabling students to express human experience, develop empathy and collaborate'. Law has been a strong supporter of Fine Arts since his two sons joined the school for sixth form.



COLLEGE DEVELOPMENTS

Fine Arts Foundation Diploma in Art & Design accredited by UAL



It is the inaugural year for our UAL accredited Foundation Course. This one-year course offers the skills and critical confidence necessary for creative independence. It is a preparation for an arts degree course at a top university either in this country or internationally.

Sadie Coles – Our new governor

Sadie Coles is a prominent presence in the contemporary art scene, named in the Guardian list of ‘Movers and Makers, Most Powerful People in the Art World’.

She started working in London galleries in the early 1990s, opening her own gallery, Sadie Coles HQ, in 1997. She was appointed officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2021 Birthday Honours for services to the arts.



Christina Boyle

This term has been a truly wonderful introduction to my new role as Assistant Head of Sixth Form. The warm and welcoming atmosphere of Fine Arts College has made it a joy to meet all of our students, including the many new members of Year 12 who have settled in brilliantly. We have enjoyed an exciting and inspiring programme of activities, from trips to Tate Britain, the Versace exhibition, the National Portrait Gallery, the Barbican Centre, the Apollo Theatre and the National Gallery, to a fantastic series of enrichment talks from an impressive range of speakers.

A particular highlight was seeing so many sixth form students take part in our Gala event, whether performing in the music ensembles or acting in *The Watsons*. Rehearsals are now well underway for our Christmas Carol event in December. Our sixth formers have worked incredibly hard and embraced every opportunity, fully immersing themselves in college life.

Dan Bland

This term has been an amazing introduction to my new role as Head of Year 10. Our Year 10s have kicked off their GCSE journey with real energy, embracing the challenge and showing a level of maturity that's genuinely impressive. Whether chatting in the corridors or visiting lessons, it's been a joy getting to know all the new starters and seeing how confidently students have settled into the year.

We've packed the term with exciting opportunities, from creative workshops to inspiring talks that have sparked fresh ideas and curiosity. A real standout moment has been watching so many Year 10 students get involved in extra-curricular activities, such as learning mandarin and competing in various sporting activities.

As we head towards the festive season, preparations for our upcoming Christmas celebrations are already buzzing. Year 10 have shown commitment, creativity, and a brilliant attitude—fully immersing themselves in school life. I look forward to seeing how they progress this year.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Aden - Year 12

The Gala was an amazing experience. I enjoyed performing in the new Law Theatre. The space felt professional and the acoustics were excellent! On the day, the atmosphere was exciting and nerve-wracking, especially knowing how many important guests were watching.

One of my favourite parts of the Gala was singing "Dani California" by the Red Hot Chili Peppers with the band while wearing wigs and sunglasses. It made the event even more fun and memorable. Later, when I was dancing in the play, Jude Law danced over to me and asked (in reference to my performance in the band) "Was that you in the wig? You were brilliant."

I can't wait until the next time I have the opportunity to perform again in the Law Theatre!



Addi - Year 12

On my first day at Hampstead Fine Arts College, I decided to go to auditions for The Watsons, and I am so glad I did. I loved being a part of the play, it was a great experience, we spent four weeks rehearsing and getting ready for the performances on both Friday and Saturday.

Playing Lord Osborne and choreographing the dances in this production allowed me to stretch myself comedically and helped me practice teaching and creating dance routines. My favourite part of any show is always the costumes, because they help you become a character rather than a person acting. Because of this, I helped with sourcing costumes from a local theatre. Once we got them to the cast, we spent an entire day trying on costumes and fitting them to each character.

The theatre is such an incredible space that we now have access to, it is such an honour to be a part of the opening.



Alex - Year 12

I loved every rehearsal leading up to the Gala. I think what was particularly special about the whole thing was the fact that I was able to be accepted so well into the group, and to even be able to feel appreciated for my abilities - something I've always felt lacked in my previous experiences.

It was definitely a huge success and the show ran so smoothly - despite the nerves every performer had, but there is no show without stage fright! The nerves really hit when Jude Law walked into the common room and I realised that he was actually watching us. The new theatre itself is such a lovely space, which is very well utilised in the college - from concerts to Lamda and dance rehearsals. Overall, the experience was incredibly enjoyable, it was a really successful performance and I'm definitely looking forward to the next show!



MariaPaz - Year 11

My time at Hampstead Fine Arts College has been a wonderful experience, and one that I cherish so much.

Starting the first term of year 11 has been demanding but very exciting because of all the activities and groups I've been involved in. I loved participating in the production of The Watsons. Being a character that I resembled in somewhat similar ways really allowed me to express to my full potential, and it was an honour to have the responsibility to set the tone of the play with the first line.

Moreover, I have also enjoyed this term at FAC through working towards my Higher Qualification Project, which has given me the opportunity to explore what I might want to research independently in the world of history of art...Paula Rego! As well as the excitement towards the coming GCSE exams, I am very much looking forward to the Christmas concert, where our voices will soar and my music will elevate...!



Katie - Year 9

The joy of working with people from different year groups on the play and music was indeed memorable and the whole project turned out to be very inspiring and rewarding! Over the time of working on the play and music, I got to know so many people, made so many great friends from all year groups and felt more confident than I ever felt in my life, all thanks to this school!

In the play I participated as stage manager, and mostly was organising backstage, helping with props and of course cheering my friends up! For the concert, I was singing in the choir and playing in a band. It was one of many other wonderful things in Hampstead Fine Arts College, and I'm looking forward to participating in even more events like this!

As a highlight, I was really excited to meet Jude Law in person, because I always admired his work and what he does, as well as my parents, who also met him on the day of the production.



A-LEVEL SUCCESS STORIES 2025

Name	A-Levels	Grade
Eric	English Literature	A
	Film Studies	A
	Graphic Communication	A
	Media Studies	A
Emily	Fashion/Textiles	A*
	History of Art	A*
	Media Studies	A*
Avram	Music Technology	A
Madison	Fine Art	A*
	History	A
	History of Art	A
Inhia	Fashion/Textiles	A*
	Fine Art	A*
	Sociology	A*
Xiaomu	Fine Art	A*
	Graphics Communications	A
	Photography	A*
	Extended Project Qualification	A
Lola	Drama and Theatre Studies	A
	Fashion/Textiles	A*
	Media Studies	A
Raisa	English Literature	A
	Film Studies	A*
	Photography	A*
Mabli	English Literature	A*
	Fine Art	A*
	History of Art	A
Ned	Fashion/Textiles	A
	History of Art	A*
Hannah	Fashion/Textiles	A*
	Fine Art	A*
	History of Art	A*
Allegra	Fine Art	A
	Graphic Communication	A*
	Photography	A
Florence	Fine Art	A
	History of Art	A
	Sociology	A
Avidan	Fashion/Textiles	A
	History of Art	A
	Photography	A*

Our students graduate to leading universities in the United Kingdom, Canada, USA and Europe. They follow degree courses in a plethora of subjects: English, History of Art, Theology, Philosophy, PPE, Music, Architecture, Fine Art, Graphics, Photography, Fashion, Media, Film and Drama.

