Big Creative Independent School
Prospectus 2026/27
Alternative Provision for KS4 students



"Where professionals begin"

www.bcis.education

Ofsted
Good
Provider

Welcome to Big Creative Independent School

Big Creative Independent School (BCIS) provides high-quality Alternative Provision for Year 10 and 11 students who are interested in Creative Music and Media and are seeking an environment where they can thrive and achieve their potential.

Our full-time, 5-day per week programme is delivered by experienced teachers who are also active industry professionals, providing students with both expert guidance and valuable insight into creative careers. Students have access to industry-standard facilities, including the latest Apple Mac computers and professional creative software, enabling them to develop practical skills and produce high-quality work that supports their future progression.



Our Mission

- To transform the lives of young people through inspirational teaching, providing exceptional access to career opportunities in the creative industries.
- To get disaffected young people back on track in their lives through high quality vocational courses.

Our Vision

- To be recognised as an outstanding provider and to ensure our graduates are empowered to lead purposeful lives with integrity.

Our Values

- To place the well-being and development of our young people and the local community at the heart of the organisation.

What parents say:
"You brought our child back to us".

What students say:
100% rate their overall experience at BCIS as good or outstanding.

Our Curriculum

BCIS aims to provide a holistic, experiential, immersive learning opportunity that encompasses all aspects of a young person's education.

We focus on creative industry, with heavy emphasis on:

- Personal, social and careers development
- Achievement of the core of mathematics and English
- Solid progression routes

Through creative subjects, students develop personal, social and functional skills that support their wider growth and future success. At BCIS, Personal and Social Development is central to the student experience, ensuring learning extends beyond qualifications and is embedded through a strong ethical and values-based approach across the school.

Students are supported to learn from their experiences, make informed decisions and build positive relationships, helping them become more confident, resilient and prepared for life beyond education.

Themed Areas

- **Maths & English**
- **Personal & Social Development**
- **Combined Science**
- **Physical Education**
- **Creative Digital Media**
- **Creative Music Industry**





Previous Results 2024-25

English:
93% achieved Level 1
36% achieved Level 2
14% achieved Grade 5

Maths:
43% achieved Entry Level 3
21% achieved Level 1 & Level 2
14% achieved Grade 4
14% achieved Grade 5

Maths and English
GCSE and Functional Skills

Maths and English are fundamental to students' success, providing the essential skills needed for further education, apprenticeships and employment.

Our personalised programmes are tailored to individual needs, enabling students to build confidence, develop key literacy and numeracy skills, and achieve nationally recognised qualifications that support their future aspirations.

Initial Assessment

All students complete an initial assessment on entry to identify their current level of learning. This enables staff to develop a personalised learning plan that builds on individual strengths, addresses areas for development, and supports each student in achieving their personal, academic and career goals.

Combined Science

Science enables students to develop an understanding of the world through practical investigation and enquiry. Students explore topics including forces, energy, electricity, space, biology and chemistry, applying their knowledge through hands-on experiments and practical activities.

The course includes practical investigations and an educational visit to the Science Museum, helping students develop scientific knowledge, curiosity and transferable skills that support future learning and employment.

*Studies in Combined Science contribute towards our new **Level 2 Certificate** in Skills for Employment, Training and Personal Development.*





Personal & Social Development

Personal & Social Development equips students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to progress into further education, employment and independent adult life. The course develops students' ability to make informed decisions, build positive relationships and become responsible members of society.

Topics include personal goal setting, rights and responsibilities, RSHE and online safety.

Students also complete the AI and its Everyday Use module, which develops an understanding of how to use artificial intelligence responsibly and effectively to support learning, enhance productivity and prepare for the evolving digital workplace.

*Studies in PSD contribute towards our new **Level 2 Certificate** in Skills for Employment, Training and Personal Development.*

Previous Results
2024-25
100% achieved a Level 1 Award

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BIG CREATIVE EDUCATION
APPRENTICESHIPS
TRAINING
ACADEMY



Physical Education

Physical Education encourages students to lead healthy, active lifestyles while developing confidence, resilience and teamwork. Students participate in a range of activities, including football, basketball, cardio fitness and supervised gym sessions, improving their fitness, coordination and understanding of physical wellbeing.

Through sport and physical activity, students also develop communication, leadership and interpersonal skills that support success in further education, employment and everyday life.

*Studies in Physical Education contribute towards our new **Level 2 Certificate** in Skills for Employment, Training and Personal Development.*

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Did you know..

"100% of learners with an EHCP were able to achieve a qualification. 40% of EHCP learners chose to remain with BCIS / BCT for the following academic year". 2024-25 figures

Creative Digital Media

Creative Digital Media enables students to develop creative and technical skills through the production of a range of digital content, including video, graphic design, photography and podcasts. Students gain experience using industry-standard software and equipment while building valuable digital and communication skills.

The course is enhanced through educational visits and guest speakers, providing students with insight into careers and opportunities within the creative industries.

Students will work towards a Level 2 Certificate.

Previous Results 2024-25

64% achieved a Level 2 Certificate 56% of which to a Merit Standard

14% achieved a Level 2 Extended Certificate to a Merit standard



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Creative Music Industry

The Creative Music Industry course enables students to develop their creativity while gaining an understanding of the music industry and its career opportunities. Students build practical skills in songwriting, music production, recording, beat making, DJing and sound engineering using industry-relevant equipment and software.

The course also explores the business of music, including marketing, contracts, career pathways and revenue generation, providing students with a well-rounded understanding of the creative industries.

Students will work towards our new ***Level 2 Certificate***

Previous Results 2024-25

71% achieved a Level 1 Certificate 80% of which to a Distinction standard or higher





Common Room, Media Suite & Indoor Gym

Our learning environment is designed to support students' education, wellbeing and personal development. Students have access to a welcoming common room with comfortable seating, table games and social spaces, alongside creative displays that encourage self-expression and inspire ideas.

Our media suites are equipped with industry-standard software, including Adobe Photoshop, InDesign and Lightroom, providing students with access to the professional tools used within the creative industries to develop high-quality digital content.

Students also benefit from dedicated Physical Education facilities, including an indoor gym with a range of fitness equipment, as well as outdoor spaces for football and basketball, supporting health, fitness and teamwork.



Recording Studios & Music Practice Rooms

Our professional music facilities provide students with an inspiring environment to develop their creativity and technical skills. Students have access to industry standard recording studios equipped with the latest versions of Logic Pro and Ableton Live, enabling them to record, produce and develop their own music.

Fully equipped practice rooms, professional PA systems, soundproofed spaces and Pearl drum kits allow students to rehearse, collaborate and prepare for recording and performance opportunities within a professional setting.

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Did you know..

"At BCIS, 100% of learners improved their attendance rates from their previous place of education. 40% of learners improved their attendance by more than 30%" 2024-25 figures

Our SEND Offer

BCIS specialises in supporting all learners, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), to achieve qualifications and advance in their careers, all within an inclusive learning environment.

Once at BCIS, we will also ensure that reasonable adjustments are in place to enable students to have fair access to assessments and exams, to achieve their full potential and qualifications.

Our Support Includes:

- Small class sizes (maximum 15 learners), allowing students to receive individual support and guidance.
- Personalised learning plans, tailored to students needs, goals and learning style.
- Dedicated Key Adults, providing regular check-ins, encouragement and pastoral support such as speech and language therapy.
- Teaching Assistant support, helping students to access learning and develop confidence.
- Wellbeing support, including counselling, mentoring and support with emotional skills.
- Extra numeracy and literacy sessions, helping students build confidence and improve their skills.
- Careers guidance, helping students to explore next steps into education, training or employment.
- A safe and positive environment, where students are respected, valued and encouraged to succeed.

Enrichment Opportunities

At BCIS, learning extends beyond the classroom. Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to take part in educational trips, creative experiences and guest speaker sessions from professionals within the creative industries.

These opportunities help broaden students' experiences, build confidence and provide insight into future careers and pathways.

Recent experiences have included visits to BBC 1Xtra Studios, Dolby Atmos mixing studios, Sky Academy, the Science Museum and art exhibitions, alongside engaging activities such as VR gaming, go-karting and climbing the O2.

We also celebrate student achievements through enjoyable reward trips, recognising effort, progress and personal success.











Extra Curricular Activities

We offer a range of extra-curricular activities that allow students' to develop new skills, explore interests and build confidence in a relaxed and supportive environment.

After-school opportunities include football clubs, with our team taking part in tournaments, as well as Dungeons & Dragons, health and fitness clubs, and opportunities to continue learning, complete work or develop existing skills.

During lunchtimes, students' can take part in a variety of clubs including film club, reading club, gaming club, fashion and textiles club, and our one-to-one support club.

Our extra-curricular programme gives every student the opportunity to get involved, build friendships and develop skills outside of their main studies.



Safeguarding

BCIS is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for students, staff and visitors and ensuring an environment where all feel confident and safe to share any concerns which they may have about their own safety or the wellbeing of others.

Mental Health Support and Art Therapy

BCIS has many different services students can access to support those who might be struggling with anxiety or low mood.

Student Welfare

Our confidential welfare and guidance service is here to support all students.

The Student Services team provides guidance and support to students by understanding their individual circumstances and ensuring they receive appropriate assistance.

Where needed, the team works with external professionals and organisations to provide access to services such as emergency financial support, housing advice and Early Help services.

Qualifications

Students work towards nationally recognised qualifications that support their progression into further education, training, apprenticeships and employment. These qualifications provide students with the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to achieve their future goals.

Subject	Qualification
English and Maths **GCSE**	Grades 1 - 9
English and Maths **Functional Skills**	Entry Level 3 Level 1 Level 2
Skills for Employment, Training and Personal Development	Level 2 Certificate Level 2 Award
Creative Music Industry	Level 2 Certificate Level 2 Award
Creative Digital Media	Level 2 Certificate Level 2 Award

Progression
Big Creative Education

BCIS offers excellent internal progression routes into Post-16 creative pathways, allowing students to continue developing their skills through a range of specialist courses.

The courses available are listed below:

Music Performance & Music Production
Level 1 / Level 2 / Level 3

Games Design
Level 2 / Level 3

E - Sports
Level 2

Music Events Management
Level 3

Media Production
Level 1 / Level 2

Film & Content Production
Level 3

Events and Venue Technician
T Level

Fashion Business & Fashion Design
Level 3

Art & Animation
Level 3

Art & Design
Level 2 / Level 3

Software Development
Level 3

Performing Arts
Level 2 / Level 3

Exploring The Creatives
Entry Level

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Did you know..

"100% of retained learners were able to progress into further education".
2024-25 figures



Making a Referral

Mainstream Schools within the local borough of Waltham Forest can refer a young person to Big Creative Independent School via the LBWF Access, Participation & Inclusion Team, or via the SEND department.

Referrals can be made for a range of reasons, but ultimately, because the young person is not currently thriving in their mainstream school.

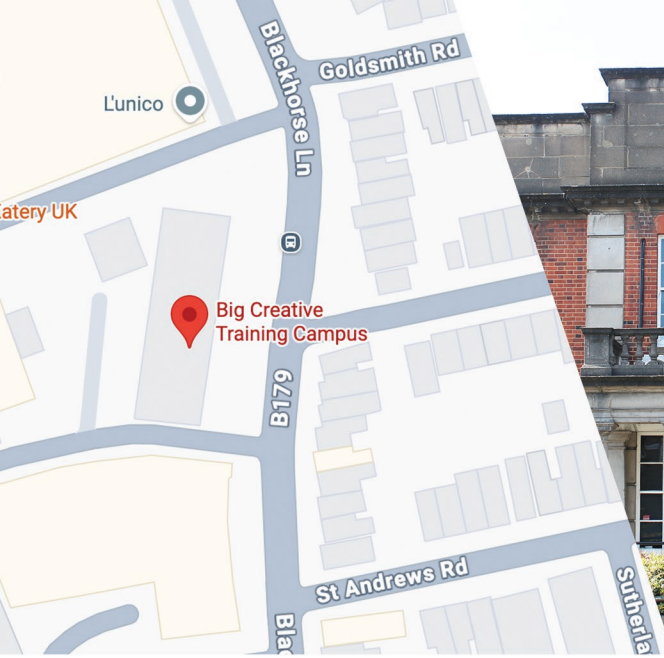
In the unlikely case that we are over subscribed, the young persons case may be discussed at the Fair Access Panel and the young person could be placed on a waiting list.

For 'out of borough referrals', the referring local authority or school should make direct contact with Big Creative Independent School by email. Please contact justin.bayley@bigcreative.education to receive an application form.

The Process

- Concerns are raised by school / guardian(s) indicating a situation which may require a young person to be referred.
- A referral is made to the local authority.
- Referrals will be discussed and if BCIS is seen as a suitable intervention, the admission process begins.







How To Find Us

By Tube Victoria Line

Blackhorse Road: Short walk to the BCT Campus.
Walthamstow Central: Bus route 158 to BCT Campus

By Bus Blackhorse Road Station

Route 123 from Wood Green and Ilford
Route 230 from Wood Green and Upper Walthamstow
Route W15 from Hackney, Leyton and Leytonstone

By Overground Suffragette Line

Blackhorse Road: Short walk to BCT Campus
St. James Street: Bus route 158 to BCT Campus

"Big Creative Independent School empowers young people to grow by creating a supportive, inclusive space where they reshape their narrative and develop into resilient, respectful, and motivated individuals"

General enquiries:
t: 020 3873 5800
e: info@bigcreative.education

www.bcis.education

Locate BCIS

Uplands House, Blackhorse Lane,
Walthamstow, London
E17 5QJ

Ofsted
Good
Provider

"Leaders and staff successfully ignite young people's enthusiasm for learning."

Rated 'Outstanding' in 'Behaviour & Attitudes'.

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