



young technicians academy



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Helping Young People
Build Their Best Futures



THE BIG ISSUE **SOCIAL** **ECHO**



Barnack
Estates UK Ltd

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The Story So Far



“Our students and staff find the scheme engaging, rewarding and fun”

Pino Soccio



Young technicians started life in the Cambridgeshire town of Whittlesey in January 2016, founded by Pino Soccio, a local musician and technician. Pino had been working in a local secondary school and wanted to deliver something new, exciting and rewarding to young people. He launched the first after school club in the town and since that date the offer has expanded across Cambridgeshire.

Since the 2016 launch, the Young Technicians have made strides to educate and inspire the next generation of students that have a shared passion for the live events sector. Pino and his team of exceptional tutors have always encouraged real world education and experiences.

This was demonstrated in May 2016 when contact was made with the Yaxley Festival organisers who were more than happy to allow the students to work on the stage as crew. The students worked closely with industry professionals, helping them to create and develop a skillset and a lifetime experience within a live festival environment.

The festival organisers and the Young Tech team have now worked together ever since and the event is a main highlight of the year for many of the students.

Educational structured sessions in 2016 were delivered as two one-and-a-half hour sessions per week for one group of students. This was broken up into a theory



session followed by a practical and team building exercise. The original group size in Whittlesey was small compared to where the organisation is today.

The session format has also adapted and developed over the years to meet the needs and standards that students and schools deserve. The organisation now runs weekly two-hour sessions in secondary schools and weekly 45-minute sessions in primary schools across Cambridgeshire..

In 2017 Young Technicians explored the possibility of becoming a Community Interest Company (CIC) and were delighted to achieve this in the July of the same year. Becoming a CIC not-for-profit organisation has really enabled the company to grow in the right direction. Profits are invested into the future of the scheme and the students within the community.

The 2017 - 2019 period saw the expansion of the CIC into many more schools and educational provisions. In these

settings, the organisation delivers structured theory and practical sessions, and working with the performing arts departments, to work on the live event delivery for all school productions, including pantomimes, concerts, Summer shows, sports days, or end of year celebrations. All the live elements of lighting and sound engineering and design, stage designs and constructions, rigging, show production and management were implemented at these productions.



2017 also saw a working partnership form with The Yaxley Partnership, a group of organisations and individuals with one aim - to develop community projects to achieve measurable social impact.

Members of this innovative partnership then went on to join forces with Lord Bird of The Big Issue to create Social Echo, continuing the magazine's mission to dismantle poverty and create more caring and compassionate communities.

Things were really taking off in 2020 until the pandemic hit and Young Technicians CIC were told to stop working in schools due to lockdown.

The team anticipated an interruption to normal activities and proactively launched their online learning programme in March 2020. This was very well received and has continued throughout the whole of 2020.

Now with the support of the team at Social Echo and Barnack Estates (UK) Ltd, an ambitious

plan to open a specialist educational facility has taken shape. In Summer 2021, the **Young Technicians Academy** will open at Yaxley, near Peterborough, offering more opportunities for young people to build their best futures.

“Young Technicians is a great scheme to be involved in; unlocking one of the most captivating and precious industries to all”

Academy Overview



The Academy occupies over 2600 square feet of space in a purposely custom-built venue in Yaxley, Huntingdonshire (just outside Peterborough). The Young Technicians Academy offers students aged between 5 - 18 a unique learning experience in all aspects of the Production and Performing Arts. The Academy also offers exclusive learning opportunities, skill development, training and apprenticeships from 16+.

The Reception

The Academy welcomes you into a spacious reception area. Here you will be greeted by our reception team. Subscriptions, merchandise and information will all be available. Once signed in, students will make their way through to the main arena.

The Arena

Here is where all of our practical sessions take place in one form or another. The Arena hosts all of our training as well as in-house productions for students to showcase their new skills. State of the art equipment and technology is in use and students are taught how to use this equipment to immerse them into the magic of live event production. Upstairs classrooms are accessed through the Arena.

Classrooms

The first floor is home to our large multi-purpose classrooms. Here we host all of our theory and some of our practical sessions. With digital projection and the latest IT in each classroom, we can deliver learning with the very best tools.

Other facilities

- Multiple facilities for storage, loading and unloading equipment.
- WC x 2
- Disabled Access
- Parking
- Fire Exits





Courses, Clubs & Projects

What do we offer?

Our Academy provides courses, sessions, clubs and opportunities to learn every aspect of the Live Events and Arts Industry. We always expect our members to have fun as well as providing a robust learning and creative environment. We have included some of the different things we have to offer here at The Academy.

Performing Arts

- **Musical Theatre classes** – ages 5 -18*. These classes will focus on developing and incorporating the 3 key skills related to Musical Theatre – Singing, Dancing and Acting. Each group will work towards creating a short performance piece every half term.
- **LAMDA examinations** – ages 5 -18*. These classes are specifically designed for students who are wanting to take a LAMDA exam. Exams are available from both a Musical Theatre and Acting perspective. Grades 6-8 offer UCAS points for the candidate.
- **Physical Theatre Company** - ages 15-19*. These classes will specifically be aimed at those studying Performing Arts at GCSE/Post 16 or Degree level and focus on devising Physical Theatre. As well as knowledge development to support their current studies, participants will devise and work towards their own piece to perform in front of a live audience.

Why choose Performing Arts at the Academy?

- Our Performing Arts department is precisely designed to allow individuals to develop their confidence, ability and technique. They will have the opportunity to be involved as much or as little as they prefer, from weekly classes to annual projects.
- Our team are incredibly enthusiastic about the Performing Arts industry, having trained and developed their skills in a variety of different avenues



for many years. Classes and Projects will be delivered to a professional standard, in an engaging and inspiring working environment.

*Classes will be divided into groups, based on age.

“The beauty of Young Technicians is that it doesn't matter whether you are an academic whiz, or if you struggle more with your studies. At Young Technicians, they don't segregate or scorn based on age or exam results because they're teaching an industry that is brand new and enchanting to many”

Live Production

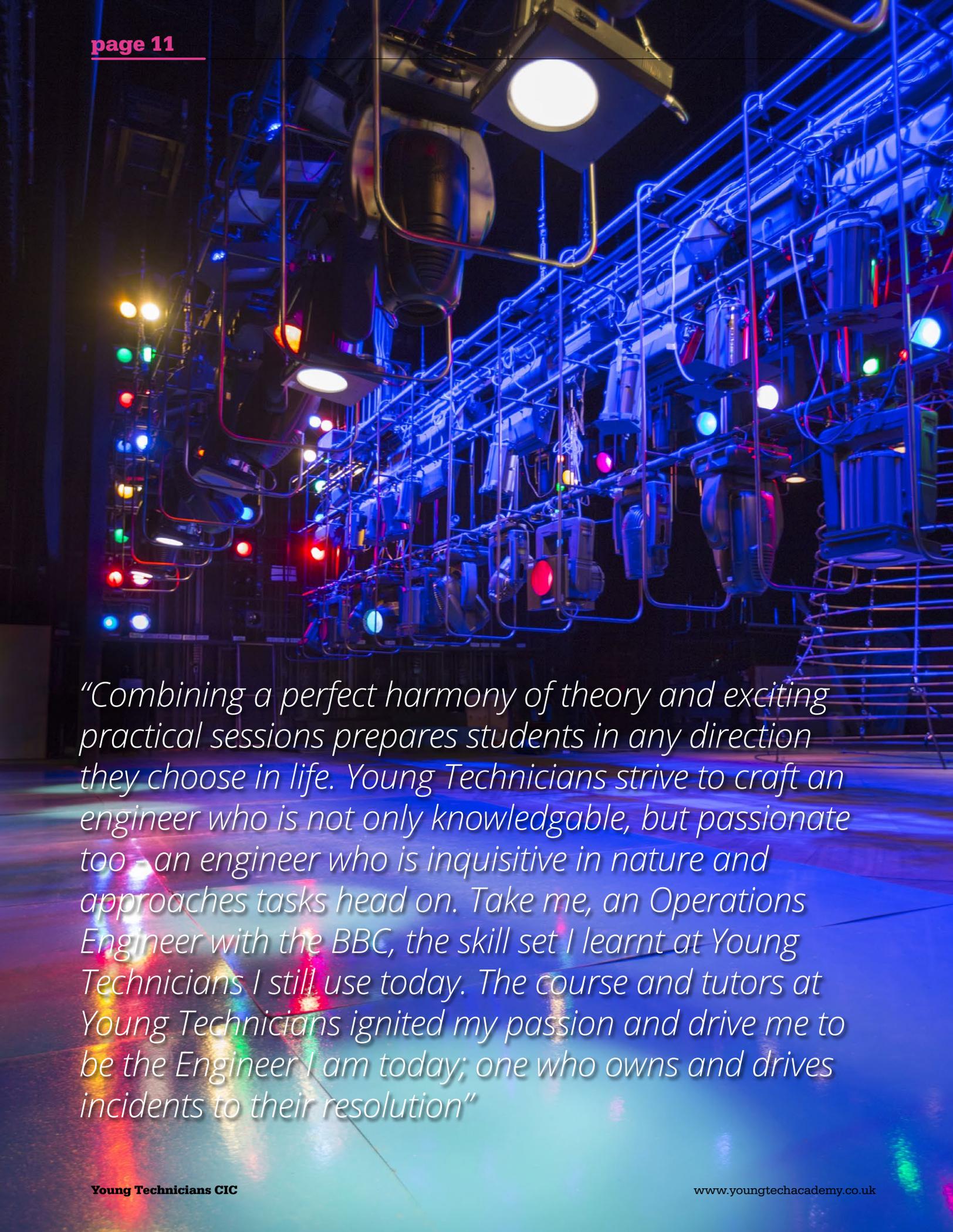
All live production courses will work towards a Young Technicians Academy Qualification, Certificate and Passport. Students will also get the opportunity to showcase their talents at a range of internal and external events.

- **Sound Courses** – ages 5-18*. These classes focus on the sound aspect of the live events industry. This can range from live concerts, to the theatre. Sound sessions will also include track production and recording techniques to allow students to have a broad knowledge of the sound industry.
- **Lighting Courses** - ages 5-18*. Our lighting courses will allow our students to develop an understanding of live lighting control, lighting design and stage rigging. These classes will give students all the relevant knowledge to take on any role within the lighting industries.
- **Stage Courses** – ages 11-18*. These sessions will give students the opportunity to learn all areas of staging such as management, rigging, design and backline production. Students will also learn the correct procedures and skills to undertake any role for staging in a live performance.
- **Event Management Courses** – ages 11-18*. Event management gives students an insight into what it takes to produce and manage an event. Students will explore life skills such as financing and marketing as well as industry specific knowledge including venue management and risk assessments.
- **Special FX Courses** - ages 11-18*. Our special effects courses are specialist sessions aimed at using technology to enhance and decorate a performance. Our course covers laser design and engineering, pyrotechnics and graphic design. Students will have creative input in the design aspect of a show and showcase their new found knowledge at various types of event.

Why Choose Live Production at the Academy?

- Our Academy Live Production Department is dedicated to creating the best future event crews. Our tutors are equipped with expert knowledge in their areas and are here to share with you the very best inside information on how the industry is run.
- Our staff work tirelessly to give our students the knowledge, opportunities and skills they need to take on the world of work, with opportunities for work experience and networking. We believe our ethos will encourage students to step out of the Academy and straight into work or further education.

*classes will be divided into groups, based on age



“Combining a perfect harmony of theory and exciting practical sessions prepares students in any direction they choose in life. Young Technicians strive to craft an engineer who is not only knowledgeable, but passionate too – an engineer who is inquisitive in nature and approaches tasks head on. Take me, an Operations Engineer with the BBC, the skill set I learnt at Young Technicians I still use today. The course and tutors at Young Technicians ignited my passion and drive me to be the Engineer I am today; one who owns and drives incidents to their resolution”

Media Production

All media classes will work towards a Young Technicians Academy Qualification, Certificate and Passport. Students will also get the opportunity to showcase their talents at a range of internal and external events adding to their portfolios within Video Production, Radio Broadcasting, Photography, Editing, Social Media Marketing and Podcasting.

- **Digital Film/ TV Video Production** - Ages 8 – 19*. Our Digital Video Production classes are practical and theory-based sessions targeted towards the creative, techie and leadership characteristics. With the latest software and equipment students will gain knowledge and experience, leading to being able to produce and edit their television show or film that they have always wanted. Students will also gain and develop life skills in communication and resilience alongside assertiveness.
- **Radio Broadcasting** - Ages 13 – 19* Our Radio Broadcasting classes will give you an in-depth look into the workings of a radio station using our own local radio station 'Fenland Youth Radio'. This will be a base of broadcasting and students will have access to the most up-to-date software and equipment, allowing them to become the next generation of radio technicians, presenters and producers.
- **Podcasting** - Ages 13 – 19* Podcasting within the Academy will tie in with the radio broadcasting, and digital video production element of the department. Students will gain the skills of planning and producing as well as broadcasting their podcast on our local radio station.
- **Digital Photography** - Ages 8 – 19* Digital photography classes will allow students to express their imagination within digital photography and image manipulation. With the skills and experience obtained from their lessons, students will strive towards planning, executing, and producing scrapbooks, plus a portfolio to display their work for future work opportunities.
- **Social Media Campaigns** - Ages 13 – 19* Social media production will allow students to translate their passion for social media to learn promotion across multiple online platforms. Using the experiences they gain at the Academy, students will push their ability to self-advertise and advertise for future employers.
- **Live Video Broadcasting** - Ages 11 – 19* Live video broadcasting works closely with our digital video production course. The experiences and knowledge obtained from previous lessons will enhance our student's ability to work under pressure within a live environment, gaining unparalleled experiences to use when working in the industry. Students will learn how to operate and set up a visual mixer, cameras, and a comms system within a professional environment, producing a live video broadcast.



Why Choose Media Production at the Academy?

- Our team of tutors will use their experience and knowledge within their respected sections to ensure that all students learn everything they need to know in their relevant studies, whilst maintaining that sessions are kept exciting and gripping.
- Whilst enrolled on the media production courses, students will gain life skills and experiences working on internal and external events within the Academy. This gives students the opportunity to make connections and experiences for future careers.

*classes will be divided into groups, based on age.

“For me, one of the best things about working with the Young Technicians is seeing the team of students working hand in hand, each bringing their individual skills yet working seamlessly as part of a team”

Thomas Cave



The Academy of Rock

- **Band Sessions** – ages 9-19*. Band sessions will offer the chance for our students to form a band, or just play together for fun. The Academy has a group of course leaders that are all musicians themselves, and they will be there to assist to every student's needs. There will also be recording opportunities lead by the production classes.
- **Repertoire sessions** – ages 8-19* These sessions are for bands or musicians to practice their pieces and build up a repertoire. These sessions give students opportunities to practice for an audience, perform on a stage, or build up a set list for an upcoming EP or album (also recorded by the Young Technicians Academy).
- **Musician Promotion** – ages 13-19*. Musician promotion focuses on students promoting and marketing themselves as artists. Along with help from the media production students, artists will be able to record promos, produce headshots and design album covers. Artists will also gain knowledge on the benefits of social media promotion, other marketing mediums and creating an online presence.



Why Choose the Academy of Rock?

- The Academy Rock staff are all multi-instrument musicians that are dedicated to giving students the creative environment they need to fulfill their musical ambitions.
- We believe every musician should be able to have the opportunity to perform, join a band, or record an album and that is what the Academy of Rock is all about.

*classes will be divided into groups, based on age

“If anyone is looking to learn a new skill set, whilst surrounded by an army of likeminded individuals, then I strongly suggest signing up to Young Technicians - you won't regret it!”



Academy Clubs & Workshops

- **Seasonal Clubs** - ages 4-19*. The Academy offers students the opportunity to take part in a series of seasonal clubs. These clubs will run in school holidays and will be exciting new projects which vary depending on the time of year (for example - our winter club will be a fantastic Christmas project). Different departments will offer different clubs so every student has the chance to participate.
- **Movie Making** – ages 8-18*. Movie making club is a club exploring different types of movie making from stop motion to cinematic movies. Students will be able to put together short movies or trailers while exploring the industry at its finest.
- **Saturday Clubs** – ages 4-19*. The Academy Saturday clubs are run by various departments ensuring there is something for all our students. These clubs are not linked to the department courses, they are standalone. these clubs will vary for all



ages and skill level so students can choose the right session for them.

- **Workshops** – ages 4-19*. Workshops are an opportunity for departments to run specialized one-off courses focused around a specific topic or goal. These workshops could include: a 3 day performance, a Q and A session with an industry professional or a new equipment day.

Why choose clubs at the Academy?

- Our clubs give students the opportunity to try something different, meet new people or face new challenges.
- Clubs and workshops will teach you some new skills or industry knowledge that students can use in their normal classes.

*Clubs + Workshops will be divided into groups, based on age.

Coding at The Academy - Developing tech leaders of tomorrow

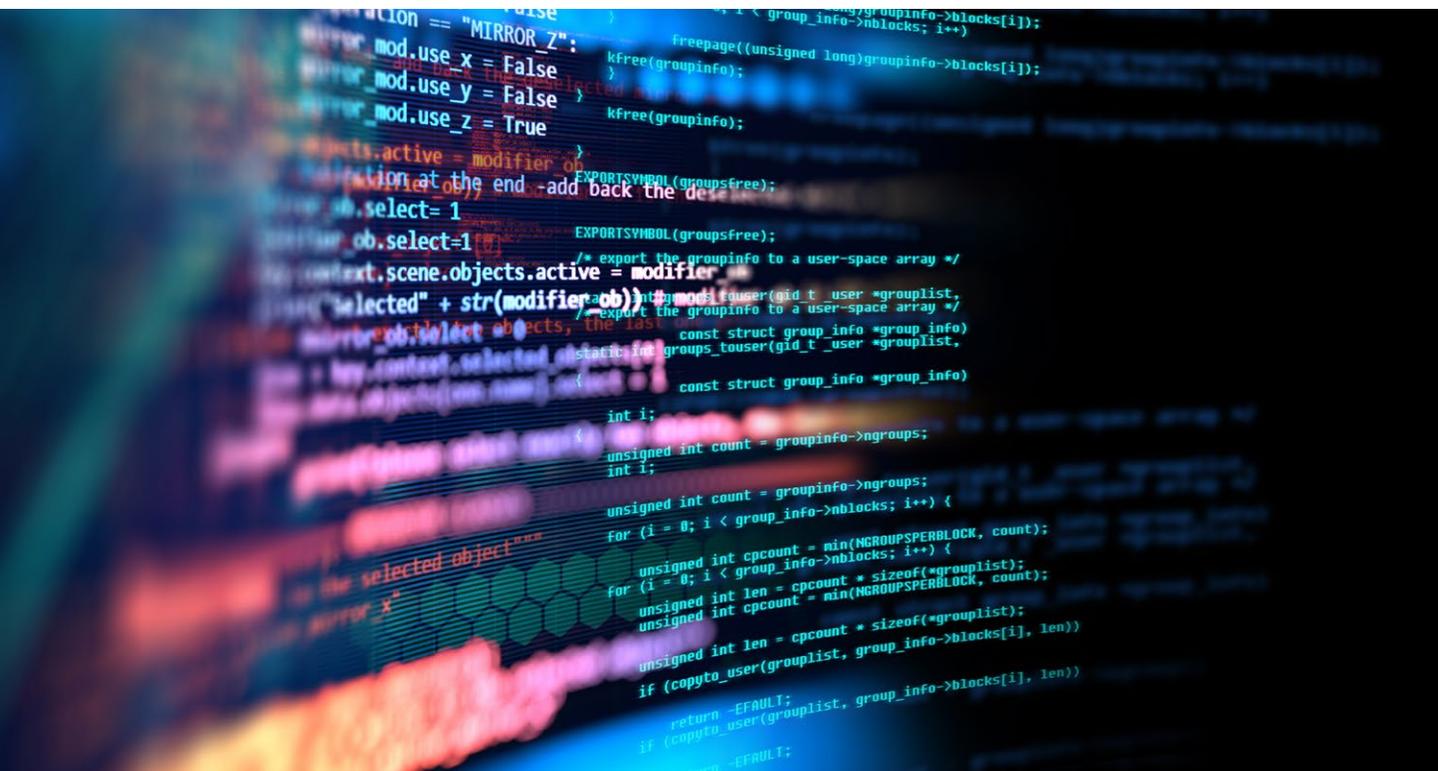
Our aim is to excite and inspire students about Computer Science and learn to code.

We are pleased to announce that we have a great coding partner organisation working with us to teach coding through our after-school programme.

We invite students across the region to enroll onto our fun packed coding clubs & activity days.

At our academy we teach computer science and coding to children from the age of 6 through to GCSEs and A-Levels. Working in partnership with school of coding who deliver to major universities and over 100 primary & secondary schools in the UK, we deliver our after-school clubs and coding workshops all in the comfort of our very own building.

Our mission is to engage, inspire and create tech leaders of tomorrow from a young age.





Arts Award

Arts award is an arts qualification available with all of our courses here at the Academy.

The Arts Award comes in 5 different levels: Discover, Explore, Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Each course is a separate qualification that ends with the Gold being the equivalent to an A Level.

This is an optional qualification that students can sign up to at any time. There will be an Arts Award intervention with our qualified Arts Award Co-ordinator to go over what has already been completed and where to go next in terms of assigned tasks.

What is an Arts Award?

An Arts Award is a range of unique qualifications that supports anyone aged up to 25 to grow as artists and arts leaders, inspiring them to connect with and take part in the wider arts world through taking challenges in an art form.

Through progressing through the five levels, young people get to:

- discover the enjoyment of creating and participating in arts activities
- experience arts events
- develop creative and communication skills that are essential for success in 21st century life
- explore the work of artists and craftspeople and gain insights into the professional arts world
- gain experience and knowledge to help progress into further education and employment

There are no entry requirements, no time limit for completing the award, and no set rules on how to present final work.

How does it work?

Arts Award's flexible framework means it can fit around a wide range of arts, cultural and heritage activities and projects, including creative and technical roles. It can be delivered in many ways and in a wide range of settings. You can map it to your existing activity or use it to kick-start something new. Arts Award delivery happens in curriculum or extra-curricular programmes and enrichment options, museum or heritage projects, weekly clubs or groups, and partnership projects.

Opportunities and Alumni

We pride ourselves in being able to offer students unique opportunities and experiences within their chosen field. Over the years, we have managed to build up an impressive list of industry contacts and friends. The Academies list of industry professionals is extensive thus allowing us to offer students enrolled on our many courses to work with some of the production greats.

Yaxley Festival

The highlight of our year is being involved with the local Yaxley Festival. We have now been involved with this fantastic local event since 2016 and now work alongside the organising committee to deliver all of the production elements at the festival. Students are encouraged to get involved from early planning sessions, infrastructure and delivery for months before the event itself. The build of the festival happens at the start of the week leading to the three-day event at the weekend. All aspects of the production courses we offer are covered at this festival and students are invited to volunteer and use their acquired skills in delivering a showstopping festival, locally.

The Broadway Theatre

We were approached by this theatre to help with providing mature students to run and implement all technical production work. This included sound and lighting engineering, stage management of shows, follow spot operators and stage crew. Our students were lucky enough to work with some incredible people and shows, such as Jools Holland, Ruby Wax, Carl Fogerty, Sean Locke, Milkshake Live, Ronnie O'Sullivan and many more. Our students were instrumental in providing the very best in experience for both the audience and the performer.

Our Academy Projects

We take pride in being able to deliver a variety of projects that have been specifically designed around the Academy. These vary from a local film festival, to forming a full pantomime company. These projects will allow students across all departments to showcase their talent, hard work and skills to the rest of the community.

External Opportunities

We also offer a wide range of opportunities outside our walls that our students can get involved in. From theatre trips and backstage tours, to leading industry conventions (such as PLASA, London), there is something available to suit everyone's taste. There will also be occasions in which our students can further expand their knowledge and experience, by partaking in projects that work outside the Academy. Some examples include The

Edinburgh Fringe Festival and The National Theatre Connections Project.

Alumni

We are very proud of each and every one of our students that come through our doors. Some of those who have graduated from our courses have gone on to work in the industry for companies like the BBC, Theatres, national live production companies, electrical companies and also starting up their own businesses!

Some of our students have also gone on to higher education with a number of different live production university degrees. We are happy with our success stories and how we have helped to produce the next generation of technicians in our beloved industry.



Young Technicians School Program

Young Technicians started life by offering one school the opportunity to have their very own students run the technical side of school productions. We have since grown into an organisation offering our school sessions to numerous educational establishments across the region. Students at both primary and secondary schools can register with Young Technicians CIC on a rolling membership. Primary students will have a 45 minute weekly session covering fun lessons in lighting design to even building their very own stage in a box! Secondary students will each receive a two hour weekly session at school. These sessions are much more advanced than those at primary schools covering both theory and practical lessons in aspects of sound, lighting, stage management, rigging, lasers and special effects. If you are someone working at a school or a student wanting your school to work with Young Technicians CIC then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Testimonials

Young technicians has been running at Sawtry Village Academy for four years. The group has grown in numbers each term. It now sees our students out on work experience in the industry, as well as running sound and lighting production for all our shows. The benefits of the scheme are not just learning skills of the industry, they also develop confidence and self esteem, learning to work in a team and lead projects. This scheme is an asset to our academy and I would thoroughly recommend it to other school and academies.

Sarah Wilson

Executive Head - Sawtry Village Academy

I have worked with young tech for four years now. I run the arts award for them. This gives them a recognised qualification for the learning and skills they gain during their young tech sessions. I thoroughly love working with young technicians. They are keen and really are passionate and excited about the work they do. Pino has set up an amazing scheme, something that no one else is offering young people and they are learning real life skills along with industry and work experience.

Louise Chilvers

Arts Award Advisor

The pupils have been thoroughly engaged with the Young Technicians course. They have been given an opportunity to work with experts in the live sound and lighting industry to develop skills in computing and technology. The feedback from the pupils has been extremely positive.

Dan Doud

Head of School William de Yaxley C of E Academy

Young Technicians have been invaluable to the success of our school performances since their involvement. Shows have been able to run much more smoothly and professionally, and they have helped alleviate some of the stress that can go alongside the process of running a production. Students get to take on real-world responsibilities and get a genuine feel for industry roles within live sound and lighting. I would highly recommend getting Young Technicians on board!

Pete Saul

Music Teacher, Abbey College

Pino and his team of Young Technicians are absolutely amazing! Our students have learnt so much from him and grow in confidence while doing so. The quality of our productions have improved so much since the Young Technicians started working with us four years ago. I would recommend to any school performing arts department. Not only do the students learn the live events industry they also run and operate all of the equipment on show nights!

Hannah Hughes

Subject Lead for Music and Performance, Sawtry Village Academy

Abbey College have been working alongside Young Technicians for 2 years now. During that time we have had 4 concerts, an outdoor music festival and 2 large scale school productions of which they have been an integral and crucial part. We have been able to use the technicians for numerous school events such as open evenings, Remembrance services to name a couple. The students in training have been able to help set up for assemblies and are now called upon by staff members within the school for all manner of technical needs.

The Young Technicians have transformed our Performing Arts events from a severely limited technical production to something that has wowed our staff and audiences and encouraged our students to sign up and take part in the training scheme. Prior to the pandemic we had nearly 20 students be a part of Young Technicians, each keen and eager to learn. Our school has been so proud of its tech team that they allow the students their logo'd apparel on event days to show the rest of the school who they are. Our school include the Young Technicians in their school prospectus and their information is now a permanent feature in our transition pack.

Sarah Carr

Abbey College Performance and ASCA Music Co-ordinator 2019

I have worked with Pino Soccio, founder of young tech academy for over 10 years; first in my role as Head of music at Sir Harry Smith Community College, and now as a volunteer with Fenland Youth Radio and through Pino's work at Young Technicians Academy. We have been delighted to use the Young Tech academy to support our public events at Sir Harry Smith Community College. They have helped us to create events which look and sound high quality and professional. The Young Technicians have supported us with Pantomimes, Christmas shows, Summer concerts and Christingles. We have held events both in school, and at different venues, such as St Mary's church in Whittlesey; the Young Tech academy are flexible in their approach and have always been happy to work with us to meet our needs. All of the staff and students at Young Technicians Academy are dedicated to creating impressive, memorable performances through their outstanding technical support. I would recommend Young Tech wholeheartedly.

Alison Freeman

Head of Music, Sir Harry Smith Community College, Whittlesey

As a former student of the Young technicians CIC I personally would highly recommend it to any young person who is looking for a step into the live events industry. One of the many things which I loved being a student was the amount of real-life experiences we had to work on live events from Yaxley festival all the way to school productions. Young Technicians CIC has provided so much knowledge and experience for my future within the live events sector and I cannot thank the team enough!

Aaron Gray

Student

I can say that I really enjoyed being a student at Young Technicians CIC. I used to go to Sawtry Village Academy the tutors of the scheme were ace. They taught me self-confidence and how to progress in this industry. I love everything about it. I now also work with the tutors in my spare time as I feel that they have done so much for me and I want to give back to the students there now. Thank you and you guys are awesome!

Owen B

Student

Since joining the Young Technicians scheme two years ago, my knowledge of the live entertainment industry has expanded tenfold. I would recommend it to anyone and say that it is both fun and educational for all members.

Ben

Student

I've been a member of Young Technicians since it started and it has been amazing! The opportunities it gives to everyone is incredible. I've worked at all kinds of events from festivals to pantos.

Toby

Student

I have learnt lots about the live entertainment industry especially about sound engineering all in a fun group setting.

Leo

Student

Young Technicians has opened up a huge amount of opportunities that you will not get anywhere else at this age. I have had the chance to work in a proper industry environment. As a performer, it is great to see what goes on backstage.

Thomas

Student

I have been involved in both festivals scenarios and theatre productions; and I truly believe – and this is what makes this scheme so unique – that I would not be where and who I am now without those hands on experiences since day one. However, not only have I developed my skills in event production, but I have also become a more confident, responsible person. I have met loads of new people in the industry and discovered that everyone started off the same as I have and so I have really taken their advice on board and bettered myself. I would 100% recommend this scheme to anybody as it is so rewarding and character building and it gives you a perfect mixture of theory and practical knowledge to become an expert in your field. I promise you won't regret it!

Hannah

Student





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