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Wingate Stage Academy Welcome Pack

What?	Lively sessions in theatre arts with weekly singing and drama sessions as well as additional workshops over the term such as dance, music, costume and set design
Where?	Wingate Community Centre, 55 Front Street, Wingate, TS28 5AQ Tel: 01429 836092
When?	5.15 – 7.15pm Thursdays during term time
Who?	8 – 16 years
Cost?	£3.50 per week, £6 for two siblings to attend [Payment terms apply]

The Ethos of Wingate Stage Academy

Wingate Stage Academy is a place where children and young people of different ages and abilities can access high quality arts activities within a safe and positive environment. Everyone is welcome at the Academy. No experience is necessary to join the groups and there is no audition process. Our leaders strive to meet the specific needs of each individual we work with.

The Academy provides the opportunity to be creative, meet new people, try new things and have lots of fun. All Academy sessions are run in a relaxed and friendly environment where the emphasis is placed on encouraging confidence and pride in the pieces produced. Highly skilled tutors lead the sessions with great energy and aim to pass on their passion for the art form to their groups. The Academy is a not-for-profit project which keeps the fees as low as possible through essential fundraising.

Group Details

Wingate Stage Academy offers weekly sessions which provide the opportunity to learn about all aspects of performing arts. Sessions focus on singing and drama on a weekly basis however additional workshops throughout the year provide an opportunity to try new things, learn diverse skills and enhance performance techniques.

Drama - Boost your confidence, learn some new skills and have lots of fun in these lively and energetic sessions. Appropriate for shy and confident performers alike the sessions cover a variety of stage craft techniques including improvisation, mask work and stylised theatre, producing devised and scripted performances. The group explores Drama through games, vocal warm-ups and group work in a variety of styles which build confidence and skills in preparation for the opportunity to share their work with others and perform as part of the Academy.

Singing - Always wanted to sing? Here's your chance! Suitable for shy and inexperienced singers as well as born performers the sessions give everyone the confidence to enjoy singing with others. The group explores a variety of music including musical theatre, pop, gospel, light classical and world song. Sessions teach vocal technique, harmony, improvisation, musicianship and provide the opportunity for solo work. The group take part in games, exercises and rehearsals which gradually prepare members for the opportunity to perform as part of the Academy.

Other Workshops – Over the term guest artists provide exciting workshops in all types of art forms from dance to set design, drumming to stage make up and costume to stage fighting. These workshops are a fantastic way for the group to develop their understanding of theatre and performance in the broadest sense. The sessions provide diversity to the group and also give the opportunity to those who do not wish to attend the performing arts sessions to attend the backstage elements only, providing something for everyone.

Arriving – From 5.15 – 5.30pm you have time to prepare for your session, sign in and collect any messages before the session starts promptly at 5.30pm. Make sure you give yourself extra time for your first session. All sessions will start and end in the community centre main entrance by the front door. Parents and carers will be able to drop you off and collect you from this area.

Leaving - If you are under the age of 11 (at Junior School) you must be collected by a parent or carer from inside the community centre unless expressed permission is given in advance for you to leave alone or with another adult. If you know that someone other than your parent or carer will be picking you up you must inform us on the weekly register when you sign in. If you are 11+ and at Senior School you do not need to be collected. If your parent or carer would like to ensure that you are always collected by an adult they should inform us of this.

Directions - From Peterlee take the A19 South. Take the first exit (it comes up really quickly) and turn right onto the A181 to Durham. Take the first left into Wingate via Wellfield (Wellfield Road). At the mini roundabout turn left (the Fir Tree Pub is opposite you at the roundabout). Follow the main road through Wingate (North Road). After the turn off for Wellfield School (it is discreet but you will see the 'Children Crossing' signs) the road bends slightly to the right. You will see a Church on your left and Wingate Infant School, diagonally opposite this on your right is new building which is the library and community centre. If you reach a second mini roundabout you have gone too far. Come back and the community centre is approximately 100 yards on your left

Fees PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY

The cost of each session is £3.50 per person or £6 for two siblings to attend. After your first session we will ask you if you wish to join the group and then ask you to pay for the rest of the sessions in that half term. Paying in this way is the best way to help the Academy and you are also offered a small discount for doing this.

If this arrangement is very difficult for you, you may pay every week however you must first pay one week up front. This means that if you miss a session for any reason your payment is still covered for that week.

Once you join the group you are committed to paying for the rest of that half term. You still need to pay for any sessions you miss regardless of the reason. This is because as a not-for-profit project the budgets are extremely tight. There are limited places in each group and it is vital that if you decide to leave the group you inform us as soon as possible so that another young person can be given the opportunity.

Please make **payment in cash** or with a cheque made **payable to Wingate Stage Academy**.

Please inform us if you cannot attend. We understand that sometimes you may be poorly or not be able to attend a session. Please try to inform us as soon as possible as we will be expecting you. Remember you will have to pay for every session during the term, even those you miss.

What you need to bring

- **Casual, comfortable, loose clothing** and flat trainers or jazz shoes. Please **wear trousers** unless you have ethical reasons not to do so. Do not wear tight fitting clothes, dresses, skirts, shoes or sandals. It is important that you can move around easily. You may well get hot so bring a few layers.
- **A bottle of water or juice**
- **You may also wish to bring a small snack.** Please do not bring fizzy drinks or lots of sweets.

Behaviour during sessions

It is really important that everyone in the group is safe and happy during our sessions. Everyone in our group agrees to our **Code of Conduct** which we must follow at all times. We will give you a copy to make sure that you know all the rules that the group follow.

If someone in the group does not choose to follow the Code of Conduct we will hold a **Three Strike Policy**. The first time there is an issue the group leader will explain what has happened to the group member and the consequences. The second time the member's parents will be informed of the issue. On the third and final occasion the group member will be asked to leave the group for that term. We hope that we will never have to use this system.

Melting Pot Arts holds an **anti-bullying policy** which we take very seriously. If you ever feel uncomfortable in the group we ask you or your parents to inform us. If you don't wish to talk about it during the group we are happy to talk to you during the week. If we do not know that you are unhappy we cannot act; others may also be suffering. It is very important that you let us know if you are having problems; we don't have to tell anyone else or take direct action but we can be aware of the issue.

How we keep you safe during sessions

Melting Pot Arts is committed to ensuring the safety and comfort of all our participants. They undergo a recruitment process which includes ensuring CRB checks are in place. Our staff complete Safeguarding the Arts training and follow strict safeguarding policies and procedures. They are experienced leaders who deliver high quality sessions.

Wingate Community Centre is open to public access. Other groups may use the building while Academy sessions are taking place. Academy sessions take place within designated areas of the building which are monitored by our staff. All parents and carers are asked to wait in the Community Centre canteen when collecting participants and any stranger found in other areas of the building will be challenged. It is important that all Academy members follow the instructions given by staff to ensure their safety.

We look forward to meeting you at your first session with the Academy!