

# DET dispatch

14:05:2021

We are delighted that Elstree Screen Arts Academy (ESA) has joined our family of schools. The addition of this vibrant and exciting academy will further enhance the diversity, joy and creativity experienced by students and staff across Danes Educational Trust.

Working in partnership with schools to improve educational outcomes and experience for all is at the heart of our commitment to our learners and we are excited about the opportunities this partnership brings.

As you will see within this special edition of the DET Dispatch, it's a very exciting time for ESA. Their partnership with the new Sky Studios, Elstree and also with ScreenSkills and the National Film and Television School will offer a new traineeship for 18-19 years in craft skills for the film industry. As part of this, ESA has been named a UK Centre of Screen Excellence.

I want to thank staff from across the Trust and at ESA who have worked so hard to make the dream of bringing ESA into our family, a reality. Our Trust motto is 'Making the difference together' and ESA's, 'Love Learning. Make Magic'. Together we are committed to ensuring that we draw upon the wealth of experience across our Trust to make learning that inspires a reality for every one of our learners.

*Josie Valentine*

CEO of the Danes Educational Trust

*Making the difference together*

Upcoming events . . .

- **Wanderlust** is a summer inspired, filmed music event that will host an array of musical talents from ESA's Y13 Music Performance class. Creating that summer feeling we have all been missing, Wanderlust is packed with a variety of genres for anyone to enjoy. The filmed event will be released shortly afterwards...watch this space!

- **Night At The Musicals** is set to be released at the end of July and is a filmed variety performance inspired by some of the most influential and ground-breaking musicals that have hit the West End. This showcase brings together a century of Musical Theatre performances in one grand show performed by the Y12 and Y13 Musical Theatre students: an event that gives students the opportunity to develop their skills in the technical crafts behind the scenes as well as on the stage, and involving over 120 students.

- **Year 12 Futures Day** is on the 30th June. 120 students from Year 12 will receive a day of workshops, talks and advice from universities, Drama Schools and industry professionals. It is set to be a great day with lots of chances for employer engagement and career development.

- **Exclusive Open Evenings** - 23rd/24th June. We are running exclusive open evenings on 23rd and 24th June to share our vision and all exciting updates with prospective parents and students. This is a limited event to ensure for COVID guidelines but will offer time for a 'Meet the Principal' talk and a tour around the campus.



## Welcome to ESA



Chris Mitchell is the principal at ESA. It's certainly the perfect job for him as his own career and life has been split between education and media production and performance. The specialism of ESA and its unique creative role in the education system is ideally matched to his experience, passion and skill set. As an educator Chris has been an English and Communications teacher for 19 years and a school leader for over 10 of those. He is a graduate of the Leaders for Impact Programme and the London School of Transformational Teachers. He also has a Jack Petchy award for outstanding service to young people. He is most proud of the work he has done at ESA over the last 6 years of being principal: results have steadily risen; Ofsted judgements are 'good' in every category; partnerships have increased and destinations for students are often nationally impressive.

In addition to his educational experience, Chris has a Masters degree in New Media and Collaborative Practice and has worked as a media content producer specialising in graphic design, performance and moving image content for live media installations at events and festivals across the UK.

As a creative academy specialising in the crafts and technical disciplines behind the film, TV and theatre industries, ESA and Chris could not be better suited to each other.

News Stories - #esaNOW #esaHASLANDED

**Science Investigation** - Year 13 Forensic Science took part in their criminal investigation practical assessment this half term. The students all had an opportunity to secure the scene, analyse the contents and collect all of the evidence. They are now analysing the evidence for their reports:

*"The crime scene was really engaging and fun, I was able to put theory into practice and use specialist equipment to log and record evidence. It was brilliant to get stuck in and involve"*  
Bella Yr 13

**Romeo and Juliet** - At the end of March, Year 13 Production Technology, Performing Arts and Film students put on a full length filmed version of Romeo and Juliet. Students were ambitious with their set design and produced an impressive level of technical craftsmanship. Well done to all involved.



Romeo and Juliet



Sky signing part of the structure of the first studio

ESA is in a prime year with several exciting projects on the horizon. Last week they marked the start of a partnership with the new Sky Studios Elstree which will provide 40 students with the opportunity to create a series of documentaries to celebrate Elstree & Borehamwood's rich film and TV heritage and will be part of the launch of the studios in Feb 2022. To mark the start of the partnership, teachers and students from Elstree Screen Arts Academy met with Sky Studios chief operating officer, Caroline Cooper, on site off Rowley Lane to sign a piece of steel that will become part of the structure of the first studio erected on site, marking a key milestone in the construction of the studios.

ESA is also developing a partnership with ScreenSkills and the National Film and Television School to offer a new traineeship for 18-19 year olds in craft skills for the film industry, and as part of this has been named as a UK Centre of Screen Excellence. This new traineeship programme will provide applied craft certificates for up to 60 young people in 6 key areas including; art direction, production assistant, grip, lighting, costume, hair and make-up. As part of the promotion and marketing of the course, 15 students worked with Universal Production Services on the Elstree Studios' George

Lucas stage to film the promotional video.



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We will provide a DET Dispatch every month so please do continue to share your contributions with [Liz Smith](#) so that they can be included in the next copy.

DANES EDUCATIONAL TRUST