

LAMDA EXAMINATIONS

The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) is the oldest drama school in the United Kingdom. LAMDA began offering speech examinations to the public in the 1880s. Since then, these examinations have been refined and developed into a comprehensive system of performance evaluation by experts in education, acting and communication.

The examination itself provides candidates with an opportunity to:

- * Build self-confidence and self-esteem
- * Develop presentation and vocal techniques, learn how to address and engage an audience.
- * Acquire skill certification and receive a record of personal achievement

JUNIOR LAMDA CLASSES AT OAKHYRST

Preparation begins in the latter part of the Autumn Term, when extra sessions will be arranged for those wishing to enter. In the Spring Term, children have 30 minute shared or individual lessons each week. These take place either during the school day (with the agreement of the class teacher) or it may be possible to hold a LAMDA class for a small group after school or at lunchtime. Tuition fees vary according to group size.

Children prepare two pieces of poetry (Grade 1) or a piece of prose and a poem (Grade 2), aiming to develop speech skills and build the confidence required for performance. Emphasis is placed on the importance of fluency, clear diction, good expression and audibility. In addition, children will prepare for a discussion with the examiner about the content of their pieces and reasons for their choices. Parents are asked to help with learning at home.

EXAMINATION

There is an examination entry fee, which must be paid in advance in January. Oakhyrst pupils are invited to attend the exam session at Croydon High School which is held during a school day in March, towards the end of term.

All successful candidates in the graded examinations receive certificates showing their level of achievement as pass, merit or distinction. Oakhyrst pupils this year achieved Distinction.