



Impact Report

1999-2019



YEARS

**BCE has been operating for
20 years, supporting our
learners and transforming
their lives.**



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The story so far

Big Creative Education is a training provider, Academy and independent school in north east London.

In 1999 we started to offer courses to disadvantaged young people and those not engaged in education, and while this is still at the heart of what we do, we now offer courses to learners from all backgrounds and at all levels. We offer access to opportunities in the creative and cultural industries such as Games Design, Film, Fashion, Music and Performing Arts.

BCE has been operating for 20 years, supporting our learners and transforming their lives. Working with them, developing their talent, increasing their life chances and providing access to resources and opportunities to ensure achievement and progression in their chosen career paths.

This report is a celebration of our work and the young people that make up the DNA of Big Creative Education.



our mission

Develop talent, transform lives, create careers...

To transform the lives of young people through inspirational teaching, and by providing exceptional access to career opportunities in the creative industries.

We believe:

- in delivering high quality provision
- in young people's potential to thrive and flourish in a modern economy
- that every young person should grow up safely with equal access to opportunities

We are:

- rigorous in ensuring good standards by hiring industry professionals
- committed to the inclusivity of diverse backgrounds within our teaching team and within the community
- driven to provide young people with access to relevant cultural programmes and building their cultural capital





The process of putting together this impact report has allowed me to take a step back from the day to day operations and really appreciate the significant achievements of Big Creative Education as an organisation.

Talking to former students, who were more than happy to share their stories on how their time with us helped to shape their own futures, has been special. It's important to say that this impact report also reflects the first 13 years of our time when we were known as Dv8 Training and to many of the staff and students of that time, we are still Dv8.

I'd like to thank my co-founders and good friends Ian Morton and Ben Jolly for their 20 years of support and unwavering commitment to our BCE values and vision. I'd like to thank all of the staff, past and present, that have given their skill, energy and passion to the Dv8 and BCE cause and who are the DNA of all of our success and achievement to date. As an organisation we exist to meet the needs and interests of the young people we work with and for me, the positive work that takes place in all of our classrooms and across our programmes, is our proudest achievement.

Alexis Michaelides
Founder, BCE / MD, Big Creative Training

Foreword



BCE is a family full of creatives, some wanting to share their creativity, others wanting to develop it. Together those shared goals, dreams and aspirations underpin a unique education offer.

That offer is leading the way in re-imagining how education is delivered. Being a part of BCE and leading the Big Creative Academy has allowed me to deliver a truly student centred experience, with well-being and character education at the heart of what we do. BCE has allowed me to be brave, bold and realise my vision for developing

the next generation of creatives. We work with a team of forward thinking educationalists who truly believe that all young people have the potential to succeed and have the right to be heard. Having worked for over 20 years in education, BCE has allowed me to re-imagine my career and start the careers of many others. I am looking forward to being a part of the next 20 years of shaping the Big Creative Education legacy.

Sacha Corcoran, MBE
Principal, Big Creative Academy

The vision for Big Creative Education is to produce motivated, work ready young people, able to progress directly into apprenticeships, HE, employment and enterprise in London's creative economy.

We champion diversity in the creative sector and work with the industry to support all young people, whatever their background, to gain employment and benefit from the same opportunities as their peers.

To do this we have prioritised five key principles:

- 1 Equal access for all:** All learners will be treated equally according to their race, religion and belief, gender or sexual orientation.
- 2 High employer involvement:** Big Creative Education is driven by the involvement of high profile and cutting edge employers, influencing and shaping the curriculum and our learner experience.
- 3 Holistic curriculum:** The curriculum at Big Creative Education is based on the creative industries, with a focus on applied learning, the development of core skills in English and Mathematics, and personal and social development.
- 4 Progression routes for all:** Progression routes are bespoke and personalised for all young people who attend Big Creative Education, with routes available into HE, apprenticeships and creative careers.
- 5 Highly skilled staff:** Big Creative Education staff are dual professionals with formal teaching qualifications, as well as many years of experience and success of working within the creative sector.

Our vision

Milestones

1999

Dv8 is founded, providing courses to 16-18 year olds



2007

Dv8 launches Alternative Provision

2010

Dv8 launches Creative Apprenticeships

2013

Dv8 rebrands to Big Creative Education



2013

BCE founded Big Creative Academy



2016

BCE launches NXT Creatives community programme



2018

BCE launches Creative Works co-working hub

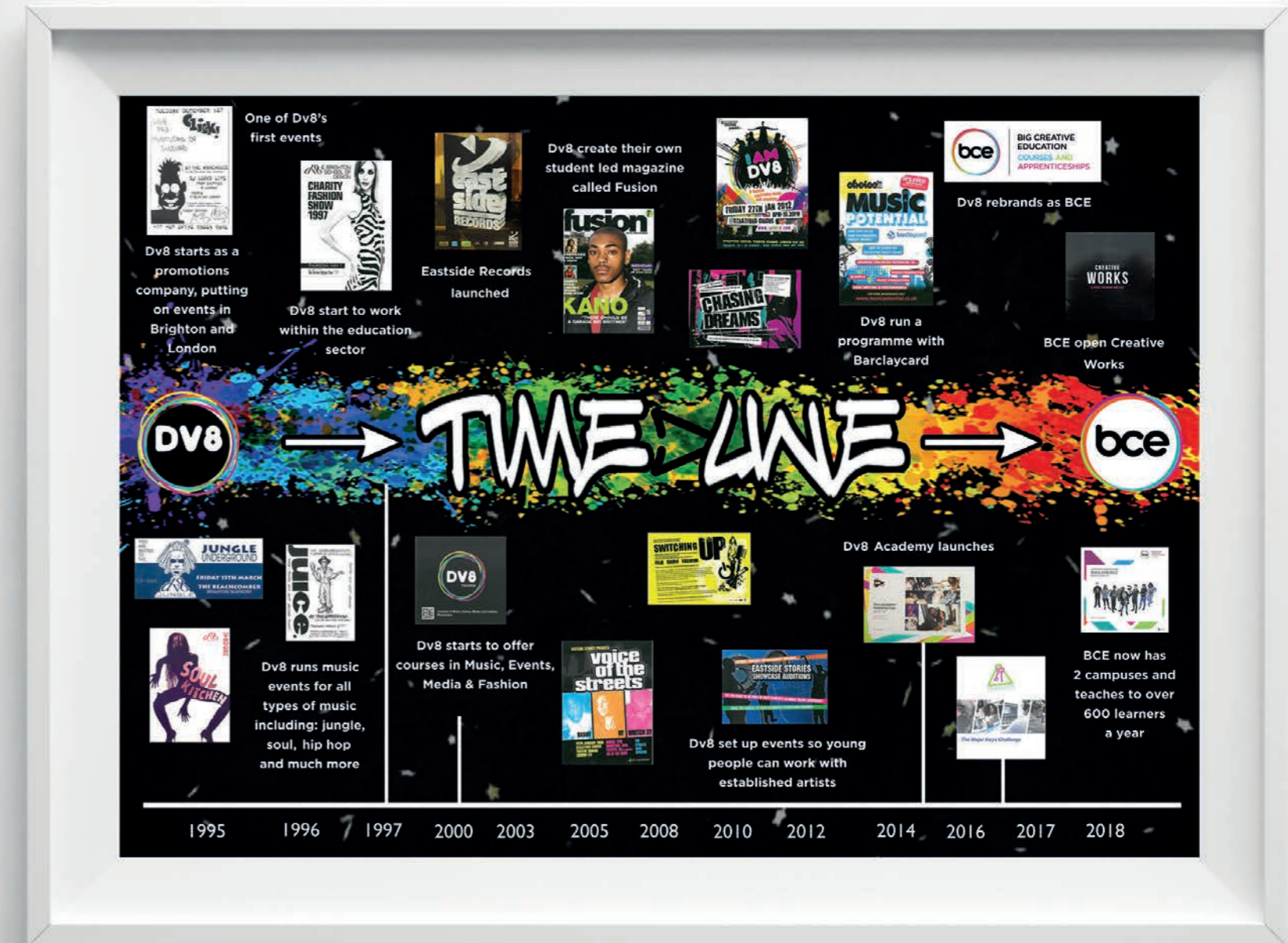
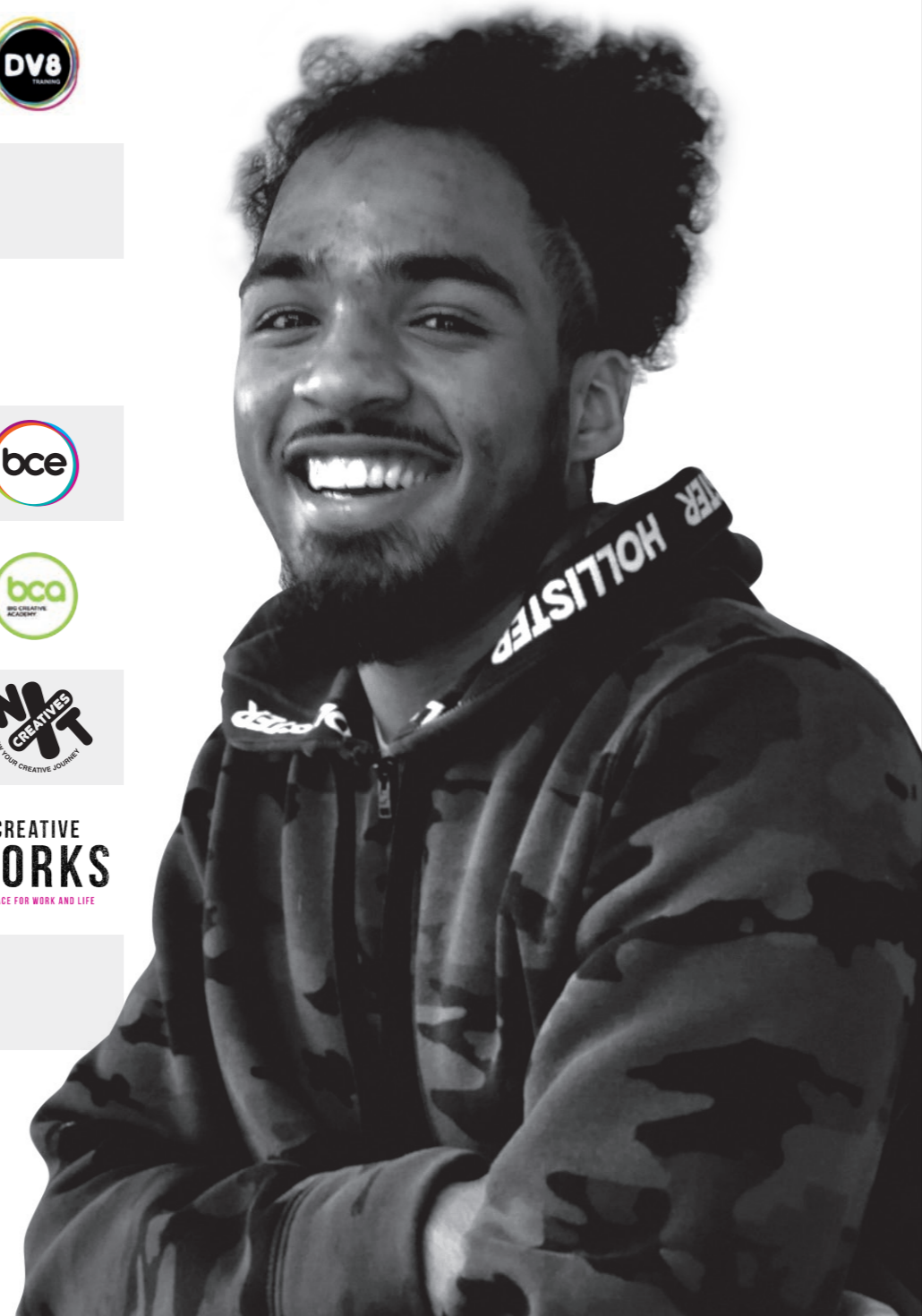


2019

BCE launches Adult Learning

2019

BCE celebrates 20 years!





Recent research shows that being NEET, even for a short period of time, can have serious and extended detrimental effects upon young people's prospects. These include decreased self-confidence and self-esteem, reduced employability and ongoing wage scarring.

Families are under pressure from rising living costs, and for parents that work - or want to work - the costs of childcare can be prohibitive.

Research suggests that life outcomes for young people in the UK are linked to parental income, socio-economic status and parental education.

Context

Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are massively under-represented within London's creative economy. 95% of creative economy jobs are filled by people from more advantaged groups.

GLA Creative Sector Report update 2017

Our young people

Our young people are our most valuable partnership, playing a vital role in shaping our programmes and we value them highly.

Every term we consult our learner forums, who help us design our programmes, ensuring we are relevant and fresh. We offer our learners many opportunities to get involved in different activities, and to meet and network with experts in the field.

Demographics

Our learners are talented individuals, and many have difficult backgrounds and experience barriers to learning.

35% of learners receive **free school meals**

10% of learners have an **Education Health Care Plan**

25% of learners have **learning difficulties or disabilities**, of which about 30% have dyslexia

61% of learners **receive a bursary**

18% of learners have **safeguarding needs**

5% are **looked after children**

70% are **BAME**, 30% are white

The majority of our learners reside within London and travel in from 26 London boroughs. 70% of learners reside within the immediate catchment, encompassing: Waltham Forest, Hackney, Enfield, Haringey, Islington, Newham, Barnet, Tower Hamlets, Barking and Dagenham, Camden and Redbridge. 5 of these boroughs are in the top 20 nationwide on the 2015 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI).

What our students say



"I am a youth activist, film maker, social entrepreneur and run a company called Aviard Inspires. I studied Events and Music Management at BCE. I really benefited from studying at BCE; my most memorable moment was my first showcase. We had Chipmunk, Wretch 32, Ghetts, Bashy, plus surprise guests and I remember the energy of the crowd going bonkers as we kept hitting them with surprises. That is what solidified my love of entertaining and creating immersive experiences for people.

What I really loved about BCE is that they allowed me to be an individual. They allowed us to be creative and to flourish and I feel like the teachers and mentors knew how to spot that greatness in people. My tutors Fusion and Louise were so friendly, down to earth, approachable and they actually cared. I was expelled from two schools, so I have never previously reached my potential in education, but when I came to BCE it allowed me to change how I saw learning going forward. I was also given tangible pathways into the entertainment industries working with Urban Development and Eastside Records. Most importantly I was given a new lease of life and I'm sure many other young people feel the same way.

The work I do now is about empowering young people, so I came back in to work with the Media class a few years ago. Some of the students helped me on set of my short film 'AMANI', working behind the scenes and even featuring in it. I also brought in The Composers in 2017 to perform for the students; basically any opportunity I get to engage with the students at BCE I try to do it - I want to pay it back because it was so pivotal for my story.

I want to increase the impact I'm making. I'm currently an ambassador for the Mayor of London's 'London Needs You Alive' campaign, with my face all over London Underground. I've also got a youth talent showcase coming out next year called Aviard Live and more films and content I'm working on. I want to tell stories that really impact and inspire the audience in a pioneering way, bringing different narratives that can be put on a cinema screen.

If it wasn't for BCE there's no way I would have become the person I am today. Thanks for helping me find myself!"

Amani

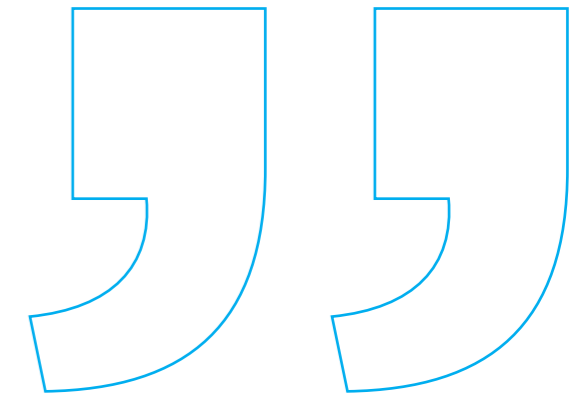


"At BCE I studied Music Production and Business. It helped me a lot in my career, to a stage where I found my place and my sound. Now I'm working in the music industry as a member of UK record production powerhouse 'Above Music Group'. I get to work with major labels like Virgin, Universal, Warner Bros. and many more, pitching records to major artists worldwide. I had a top 10 Chart Billboard worldwide at #7 in India ('Downtown' by Guru Randhawa), and a #1 in Turkey with a remix for Beduk's single 'Gravity'. Apart from my team, I have my own brand as an Artist DJ / Producer."

Nico

"I went to an afterschool club, which inspired me. Their funding was cut and there was nowhere for me to produce music and develop my talent. On the NXT CREATIVES programme I have become more confident, I have learnt networking skills and I am now certain that I have made the right decision to pursue my dreams and not get stuck in a job that I don't want to do."

Rohan





“When I studied at Big Creative Education, they taught me how to carry myself as a professional. I studied Music Production and Business Level 3 and I’m now able to transfer the skills I’ve learnt into my professional career. Since I’ve left BCE, I’ve been very fortunate to work with the likes of Fredo, A2, Ice City Boyz, Bryson Tiller and so on. I also work as a part-time support tutor at the Big Creative Independent School, supporting the next wave of young people coming through.”

Nathan



“I came to the coding project in my school holiday. If I didn’t go I would have been bored at home. I was feeling shy when I first went, and I didn’t think I would like it because I haven’t done that much coding before. We got to make our own robots out of Lego and my mum came in at the end of the week to see what I had done. I made lots of friends, it made me feel like going to secondary school wouldn’t be so scary as I can talk to people I don’t know more than before.”

Ameera

“Being at sixth form prior to BCE, I felt my creative urges were not being fulfilled. When I moved over to study Media I instantly felt at home. Not only did the college give us the tools and knowledge to succeed, they prepared us for life as creatives of the future. The atmosphere was unlike any other, combining practical experiences with our curriculum, like my first Vogue debut! I’m now a successful photographer and videographer working with The Big Shot, Disney and Vogue. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at BCE and I thank them for all the support they gave me.”

Georgia



“At BCE I studied Performing Arts, where I learnt about Drama in ways I didn’t expect. They put me in an environment studying alongside young, hungry and talented people with a similar vision, providing help and support for each other. I formed friends for life and have some of the best memories I’ve experienced from BCE. I now work in a Pupil Referral Unit as a mentor and I incorporate my drama techniques when assisting and leading creative arts lessons. I’m also a music artist writing, releasing and performing my own content. The skills I’ve gained have opened many doors for me along my journey.”

Luke

“I studied a Digital Media Apprenticeship in association with ITN studios. I was a cameraman whilst studying towards my qualification, and after all my hard work, I was offered a full-time role. Now I’m a cameraman for ITV London, filming interviews and events. My apprenticeship helped push me further in my career by giving me an opportunity to learn from industry professionals in my new role, thanks to my mentor at ITN. Having been raised in London, it’s amazing that I have the chance to see what’s happening in my city whilst filming; this gives me a lot of pride.”

Tamuka



“Since I’ve left BCE a lot has happened – I’ve just finished my BA degree in Interior Architecture and Spatial Design and got a graduate design job in an Architectural / Design firm. I also draw hyper-realistic portraits on the side.”

A lot of skills I’ve learnt studying Fashion at BCE really helped me when I was in university. The work experience that was offered to me like the London Fashion Week, Etta Bond video shoot, and Wesley Harriot Fashion Assistant helped me grow by taking me out of my comfort zone and gave me experience to add to my CV; it was the beginning of my creative career.”

Miriam

Our impact in numbers

97%

vocational success rate
for Academy students

Ofsted 'Good' grades for all schools
in the BCE group - Training, Academy
and Big Creative Independent School

74%

of BCE Level 3 students
progress to university

Training students with disabilities and
additional learning needs achieve to
the same level as their peers

88%

of BCE apprentices progress into
careers in London's creative economy

Ofsted says there is an 'outstanding culture
of mutual respect between staff and students'

10,000

young people on our full-time programmes

3,000

young people on our NXT Creatives
community programme

1,200

young people engaged on Music Projects
including Music Potential and Eastside Records

500

apprentices supported into creative careers

2,000

young people engaged through
outreach and estate based programmes

50%

of BCE students that graduate to university
are the first in their family to do so

Our study programmes

Full-time courses (16-18 years)



Theatrical and Media Makeup



Games Design, Animation & Visual Effects (VFX)



Music Performance



Music Production



Media, Film & TV



Production Arts



Art & Design



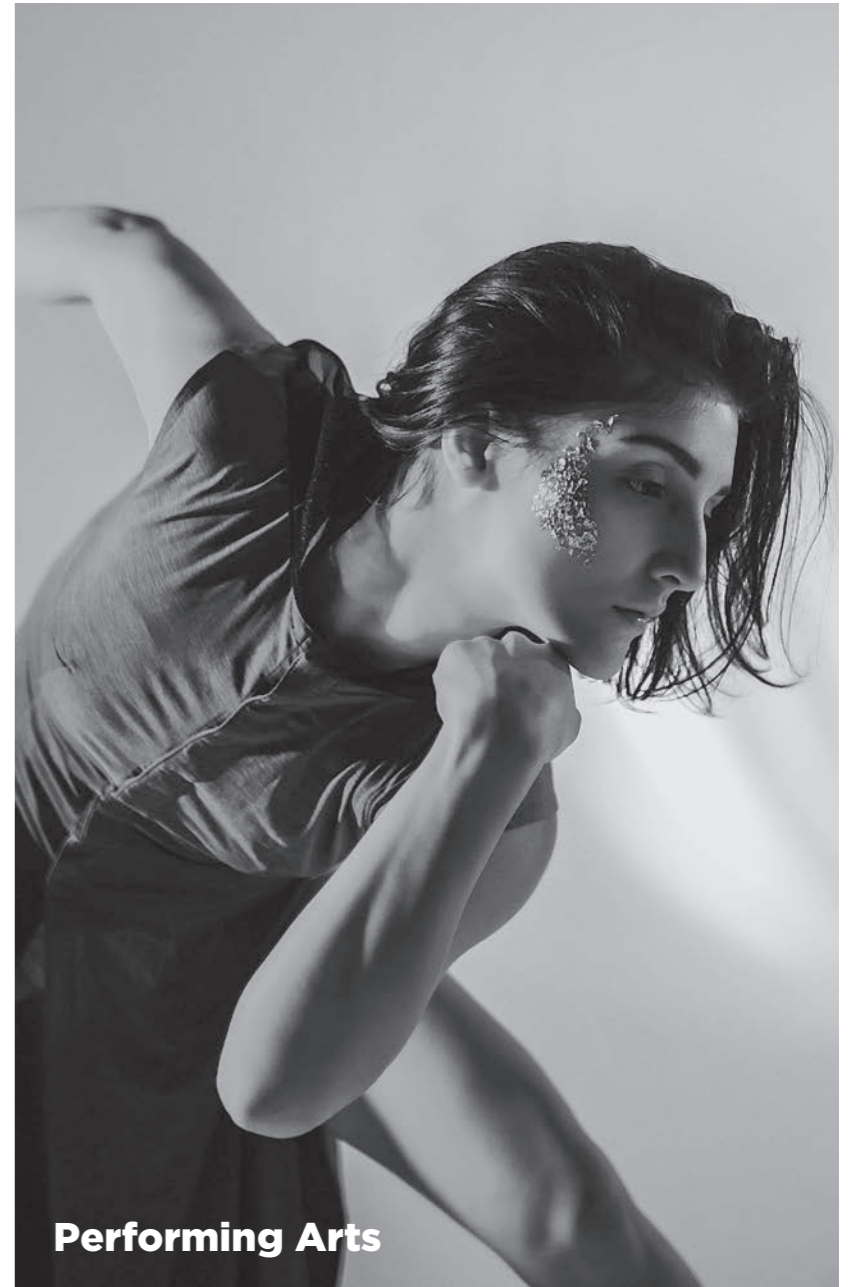
Fashion



Events Management



Sports Studies



Performing Arts

Further learning



Big Creative Independent School



We are an alternative school for years 10 / 11 and learners interested in Creative Music and Media, who do not feel their current schooling engages them enough for them to succeed.

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

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

Apprenticeships

BCE apprentices are employed for 15 months by a creative sector employer and will complete their 'off the job' training with BCE through a combination of:

- Monthly tutorials / industry masterclasses
- Online learning and assessment

BCE apprenticeships are open to anyone 16+ who want to pursue a career in Music, Digital Marketing, Creative Media, VFX or Events.

Adult learning

We understand that lifelong learning is essential to meet the ever-changing demands of the labour market.

BCE provide adult training and courses, which develop confidence in the community and bridge the skills gap to allow our adult learners to progress into sustainable employment.

We have a wide range of courses to suit learners at different levels of study including Web & Social, Content Creation, Digital Marketing, Access 2 apprenticeships and Maths and English.

NXT Creatives



This is the BCE out-of-hours community programme that provides a fun and healthy environment for young people to express themselves, make new friends and increase their confidence.

Providing Saturday, evening and holiday programmes for young people aged 10-18, NXT Creatives provides a safe and supportive environment for our local community to socialise, develop their creativity and stay active and healthy outside of their mainstream school or college. This project has had a direct impact on families and parents to ensure their young people have access to an arts based education programme and provides much needed free activities, that fuel young people's dreams and ambitions and promotes positive behaviours and community cohesion.



Our staff

BCE staff are what make us work as an organisation. They are passionate and highly committed to our mission. Meet a few of our staff here at BCE.

Ricky Wesley Harriott

'Wesley Harriott' fashion brand has been worn by the likes of Lady Gaga and Kylie Jenner, and was also shown at the New York Fashion Week 2019!



Jennifer Hyatt

Jennifer is a professional vocal coach, events manager and musician with experience within both the UK and USA. As a tutor she specialises in vocal performance, stage presence and artist development, as well as events planning, facilitation and management.



Adrian Joseph

Adrian is a Adobe Education Trainer certified in the Creative Cloud software package (Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Illustrator etc.) and has used CSS / HTML / JavaScript coding with content management systems. "I'm now using Unity 3D and Maya software to create e-learning game content and training simulations".



Jhené Debose

Jhené is a Neo Soul / Nu RnB vocalist, producer and vocal engineer known as Véllysii, with years of experience of performing live at showcases, on radio, as well as at festivals around the UK. As a tutor, she specialises in vocals, from live and studio performance, to coaching, arrangement and engineering.



We employ over 100 people and are always interested in speaking with talented people who want to work in creative education. For more information please email ben.jolly@bigcreative.education

James Millington

James started his career at BBC Bristol, working on various daytime television shows. He then worked at Hospital Records (the world's largest drum and bass label) doing digital marketing, working on video concepts and production for a global audience. He currently runs a record label and performs in a hip-hop group.



Lee Chalkley

An actor, dancer and model, Lee has worked on music videos, adverts for 'Rimmel London', The National Lottery and modelled for brands such as ASOS and Topman. He has been teaching for over 8 years and loves teaching because it allows him to stretch learners, giving them new techniques in a fun and energetic way.





“Over the last 20 years Big Creative Education has grown to be a crucial asset in the creative landscape of Blackhorse Road, Waltham Forest and London. With one in six jobs in London being in the creative sector, Big Creative Education is making a major contribution to ensure our young people have the skills, ambition and access to these roles, improving the life chances of our residents and supporting our local businesses. We look forward to working with Big Creative Education over the coming years to build a fantastic creative and cultural legacy in the borough.”

Cllr Simon Miller, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Housing Delivery
and Cllr Grace Williams, Cabinet member for Children, Young People and Families

Industry guests



© Marko Zamrznuti Tonovi / Shutterstock.com

At BCE, we have access to a wide range of contacts from the industry. Here are a few that have visited BCE over the years.



STORMZY
JESSIE J
KREPT & KONAN
ASHLEY WALTERS
ED SHEERAN
KERRY HILSON



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Our future



Digital future

Launching in 2021, the digital future vision is to create a dynamic training space for full-time students and apprentices that reflects the modern working practices in Games Design, Animation, VFX, Digital Media and Post-production.

Our BCE vision has been further developed in order to create the 'Big Creative Village'.

The Big Creative Village offers industry standard education facilities across 4 campuses that incorporates £28m of investment. This includes our brand new £21m Academy due to launch in 2020, a new 'Digital Future' campus dedicated to Games Design, VFX and Digital Design, and our co-working space, Creative Works, for our apprenticeships and adult programmes.

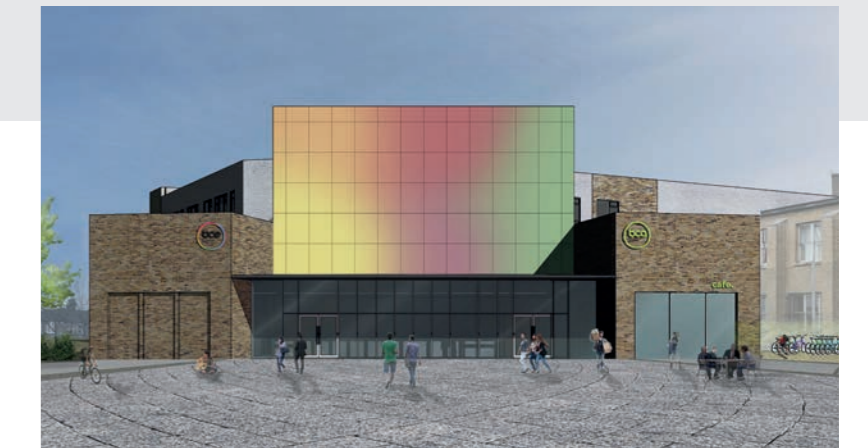
The Big Creative Village will provide courses to 1,000 full-time students and apprentices and will be the largest specialist creative college in London. A new careers hub will be located on-site in order to signpost students and apprentices to appropriate courses and opportunities within the creative industries.



A visionary building

Big Creative Academy is constructing a new, visionary building for our specialist creative arts academy.

Work has started on a £21m investment funded by the Department for Education on our Clifton Avenue campus. The building will house industry standard facilities for our courses for 16-23 year olds in Fashion, Theatrical and Media Makeup, Performing Arts, Media, Music, Production Arts, Art & Design and Sports Studies.



The vision we have for Big Creative Academy is coming alive. It's more important than ever that our young people are trained to have technical, industry-standard skills they can take into the real world, and for communities to come together. We look forward to welcoming you all.

Sacha Corcoran, MBE



Creative Works

BCE founded Creative Works in 2018 – a brand new co-working space for creative freelancers and employers.

Creative Works is a buzzing creative community of designers, animators, music and media companies.

Join us

There are many ways to support our work at BCE, both on a personal level or by becoming a formal partner. Our mission is to bring as much resource, expertise, care and support into all of the programmes and support services that we offer our learners.

Here's some ways you could support us



Funding: Provide funding to support the ongoing development of our community programmes. £150 supports a young person for 1 year on a BCE community programme.



Resources: Perhaps you could help to provide new or recycled IT or equipment for our classrooms, studios, theatre or careers centre.



Apprenticeships: Make a commitment to bring BCE creative apprentices into your organisation.



Work experience / Masterclass / Industry briefs: Every placement and interaction with industry helps our young people to raise their awareness of the creative industries and increases future aspirations and networks.



Volunteering / Mentoring: Mentoring and work shadowing provides our young people with a rare insight into how the industry works and can build confidence and create important future relationships.



Industry ambassador: If you have significant experience in the creative industries then we'd like to explore how you can support our mission to bring industry into the classroom.

We truly value each and every contribution and partnership that supports our mission so please don't hesitate to contact us if you'd like to get involved. Contact us at partnerships@bigcreative.education or email alexis.michaelides@bigcreative.education



Develop talent, transform lives, **create careers...**

Impact

For general information please contact us:

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