arco ACADEMY

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL
WITHIN EVERY STUDENT



ARCO ACADEMY

A Boutique Independent Sports Specialist School

Empowering Students to be their best

PROSPECTUS 2026/27

CARE • RESPECT • INTEGRITY • RESPONSIBILITY

Photo: Achievement Assembly

Welcome

A SHARED VISION OF EXCELLENCE



Dr. Jeffery Quaye OBE

Chief Executive Officer

At Arco Academy, we are committed to creating opportunities for every student to succeed. Our focus is on building confidence, developing independence and equipping students with the qualifications and life skills they need for a positive future.



Ms. Chelsey Leighton

Principal and SENCO

I'm proud to lead a school where differences are celebrated, and every student is known, valued and supported. We combine high expectations with genuine care, ensuring every student feels safe, supported and empowered to reach their full potential.

Unlocking and nurturing potential from day one

100%
of our students leave with GCSEs and vocational qualifications

100%
of our students make progress

100%
of our alumni's go on to further education, training or employment

Arco Academy empowers students to thrive with personalised, supportive and adaptive learning

Our Ethos

We believe in creating a safe, supportive and ambitious environment where every student is known, valued and given the opportunity to succeed.

Our Wheel of Culture





Photo: Kew Gardens School Trip

Our Provisions

ONE STANDARD OF CARE



Universal

KEY STAGE 3–4

Early intervention, small group support, consultative therapeutic input.



Targeted

KEY STAGE 3–4

Targeted support with integrated therapy, small group instruction.



Specialist

KEY STAGE 3–4

Curriculum adaptation, executive functioning support.



Specialist Enhanced

FLEXIBLE, BLENDED

Intensive language intervention, small group or 1:1 delivery, integrated SALT and ELSA.



Specialist Enhanced +

FLEXIBLE, BLENDED

Maximum individual support for students with high language and learning needs.



Hybrid Learning

FLEXIBLE, BLENDED

A flexible, blended provision combining online learning with in-school support.

ISI inspectors said: "Students thrive due to the school's tailored programmes and nurturing environment."



Photo: Parent Coffee Morning



Support

HOME AND SCHOOL WORKING AS ONE

We believe it takes a village to raise a child. That is why we work in close partnership with families, our in-house teams and external professionals to ensure every child receives consistent, coordinated support. Our dedicated School Home Support Practitioner plays a central role in keeping everyone connected, fostering strong relationships and ensuring clear, timely communication throughout your child's journey.

SEN Team

SENCO | Teaching Assistants
Specialist Teachers | Annual Review Coordinator

Therapy Team

Speech and Language Therapist | Psychotherapist
Occupational Therapist | Educational Psychologist

Wellbeing Team

School Home Support Practitioner | Mentors + Key Workers
Tutors | Mental Health Lead | Attendance Officer

Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) | Safeguarding Advisory Board Lead
Deputy DSLs | Designated staff for Looked After Children

External Partners

CAMHS | Local authority SEND and social care teams
Health services | Virtual School (for looked-after children)

ISI inspectors said: "Teachers and support staff provide effective, inclusive teaching that enables students to make good progress and develop confidence and independence."

SOME OF THE NEEDS WE SUPPORT

UNDERSTANDING SEN AT ARCO

An example of the needs we support are



Dyslexia



ADHD



Autism/ASC



DLD

Our Approach to SEN

Personalisation means recognising that no two students have the same needs, strengths or aspirations. We aim to provide a supportive, structured an inclusive environment in which students can access learning, develop independence and prepare for their next steps in education, employment and adult life.

Our approach reflects the person-centred principles of the SEND Code of Practice, including taking account of students' and parents' views, identifying individual outcomes and coordinating support around the student.

As a specialist provision for students with additional needs, we create an environment in which students feel safe, understood and supported to overcome barriers to learning, develop confidence and achieve their potential.

Our approach to personalisation involves more than adapting classroom work; it includes emotional wellbeing, relationships, communication, social development and preparation for adulthood.



How support is personalised

1 Individual Learning and Tailored Teaching

Curriculum and teaching approaches adapted to each students strengths, needs and goals.

2 Emotional Wellbeing and Pastoral Support

A safe and supportive environment with ongoing pastoral care, helping students to build confidence and resilience.

3 Specialist and Therapeutic Support

Access to specialist expertise, including speech and language support, occupational therapy and other therapeutic input where needed.

4 Appropriate Levels of Adult Support

Flexible levels of support to promote independence while ensuring students feel secure and supported.

5 Learning Through Sport and Enrichment

Opportunities to develop skills, interests and confidence through sport, enrichment activities and real-life experiences.

6 Partnership with Families and Regular Review

We work closely with families, listen to their views and review progress regularly to ensure support meets each student's evolving needs.



Photo: Virtual Reality Activity



OUR FOUNDER

Lisa Miller founded Arco Academy in 2016 on a simple belief: every student, no matter what challenges they have, deserves someone who believes in them.

It's a belief rooted in her own story. Growing up with ADHD, Lisa found aspects of school difficult, until her Deputy Head Teacher, Mr. Ashby, saw her potential and chose to nurture it. He bought Lisa her first pair of running spikes and encouraged her to take training seriously. That same year, she represented Great Britain at the World Junior Championships in Santiago, Chile, and was crowned World Junior Champion. For her, it wasn't the spikes that changed her life—it was someone believing she was worth buying spikes for that did.

That experience, along with the lessons about routine, support and opportunity that she learned through a career in elite sport, became the foundation of the school. She named it Arco, Italian for "arch", because an arch stands for everything she wanted the school to be strength, stability, a bridge across the gap, and a pathway forward.

Lisa holds a BSc (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Science and the ISA Certificate in Advanced School Leadership. Her degree research explored how physical activity positively affects one's mood, cognitive performance, and memory.

Today, that is why every Arco student takes part in physical activity daily. Movement helps students regulate and focus so they're ready to learn. Under her leadership, Arco has met the standards in all areas at its December 2024 ISI inspection.

Lisa also founded Arco Youth CIC, for every neurodivergent learner to have someone who believes they are worth investing in. Through physical activity, education and steady human support, the CIC works to close the equity gap for neurodivergent learners.

Lisa would love to welcome you to Arco. Come and see the difference belief makes.

The Leaders Behind Arco

A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE

- OBE for services to education
- Adviser to the UK Government on education policy
- Former Lead Ofsted Inspector
- Nationally recognised Leader of Education
- Over 60 years' combined experience in SEN and education
- Specialist expertise in autism, ADHD, SEMH and trauma-informed practice
- Nationally accredited SENCO (NASENCO)
- Qualified therapy and counselling practitioners within the leadership team
- Lived experience of SEND and neurodivergence
- NPQH-qualified headship
- Advanced Skills Teacher
- Curriculum specialist and education researcher
- All teaching staff are fully qualified teachers
- Accredited Team Teach training in positive behaviour support and de-escalation
- Advanced (Level 5) safeguarding training
- Cross-phase leadership experience, supporting smooth primary-to-secondary transition
- Former elite athletes, bringing focus, resilience and teamwork.



Dr. Jeffery Quaye OBE
Chief Executive Officer



Ms. Chelsey Leighton
Principal & SENCO



Ms. Roxanne Osgood
Vice Principal & Curriculum Lead



Mr. Myles Burgess
Assistant Principal & DSL

ISI inspectors said: "The school's leadership team demonstrates strong commitment to safeguarding, well-being, and the personal development of students."



How a Day at Arco Unfolds

Time	Session
8:50 - 9:00	Arrival
9:00 - 9:15	Breakfast
9:15 - 9:30	Tutor Time
9:30 - 10:20	Period 1
10:20 - 10:30	Break
10:30 - 11:20	Period 2
11:20 - 12:10	Period 3
12:10 - 12:40	Lunch
12:40 - 13:30	Period 4
13:30 - 14:20	Period 5
14:20 - 15:10	Period 6
15:10	End of School Day

Curriculum

OFFERING A BROAD AND DEEP CURRICULUM

We understand that every student arrives with their own educational experiences and needs. We tailor our curriculum to each individual, so that all students, whatever their provision or pathway, have access to a comprehensive and supportive education. We offer a wide range of qualifications, from Entry Level Functional Skills through to vocational qualifications and GCSEs. Our curriculum is adaptable, supportive and challenging, helping every student to thrive academically and personally.



English



Mathematics



Biology



Physical Education



Employability



Religious Studies



Food Studies



Photography



Art



Music



Hair and Beauty



Esports

Photo: Art Lesson

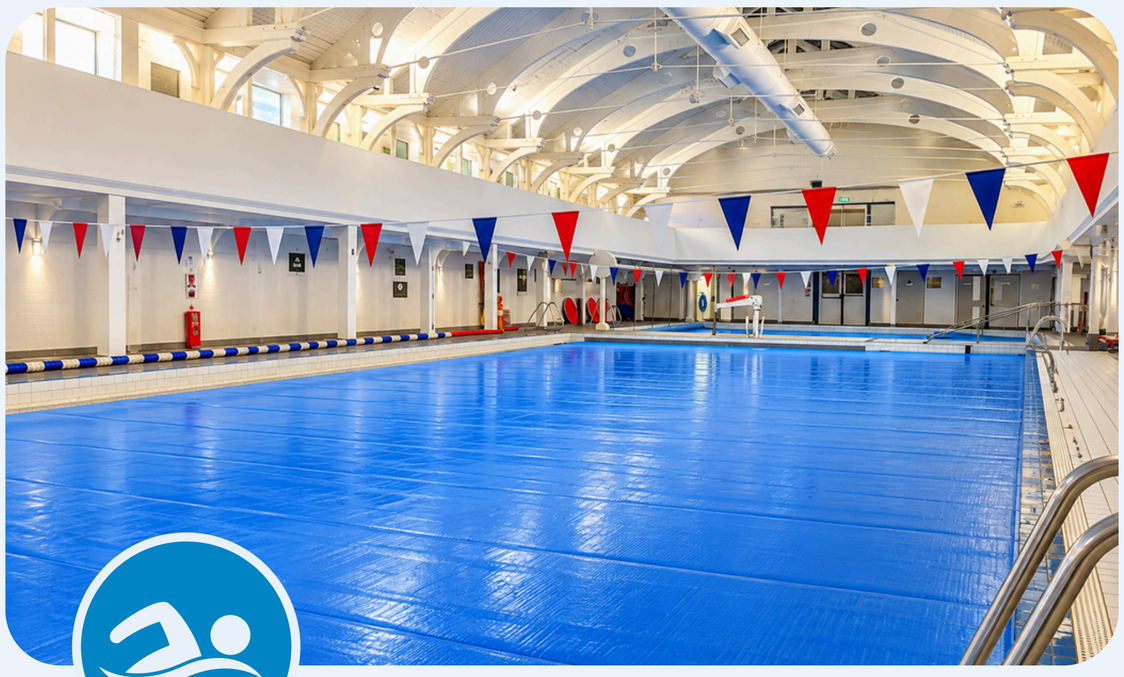


Sport Every Day

Backed by science: regular exercise increases cognitive performance, positive mood state and increase in better memory.



Onsite Gym



Onsite Swimming Pool

Community Partners

Through the use of trusted local partners' facilities, our students enjoy even more ways to get active and connect with their community.



5G Football Pitch



Olympic-size Ring



Indoor Basketball Court



Water Sports



Multi-use Game Area

Photo: Dancing

Enrichment

A BROAD WORLD OF SPORT


Athletics


Basketball


BMX


Boxing


Canoeing


Dance


Esports


Football


Go Karting


Karate


Paddleboarding


Pogo


Rowing



Sailing

"Sport opens doors, to confidence, friendships and a brighter future." Dr. Jeffery Quaye OBE

Photo: Canoeing

Sports Pathways & Scholarships



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

2 Regional Champions

2 National Finalists

3 Footballers in Academies

1 Semi-Professional Footballer

THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Funding support for travel, kit, club fees and training camps, helping talented students go further, whatever their family's means.



Jeremiah

Aviation | Aspiring Pilot

"Arco has made such a huge difference in my life and helped bring me one step closer to achieving my dream of becoming a pilot."



Estime

Football | Now training with AFC Wimbledon

"Arco gave me the support, structure and belief to take my game to the next level."



Hannaelle

Athletics | ISA Finalist

"Arco helped me believe in myself and gave me the platform to compete at a higher level."

Competition Pathway

Structured fixtures and inter-school competition for students who want to test themselves.

Extra-Curricular Pathway

Broad access to sport for every student, every week, as a normal part of school life.

Scholarship Pathway

Targeted support for students showing real sporting potential.



Our Inspiring Ambassadors and Guests



Christine Ohuruogu, MBE
400m Olympic Champion



Nkechi Simms
British Actress



Ato Boldon, OLY
4-Time Olympic Medallist



Jordan Thomas
World Karate Champion



Melita Emanuel-Carr
Commonwealth Games Silver Medallist

Julius Francis
British Heavyweight Boxing Champion



Eartha Pond
Women's FA Cup Winner



Tim Benjamin
World Indoor Championships Silver Medallist



Rio Ferdinand, OBE
6-Time Premier League Champion



Ade Adepitan, MBE
Paralympic Bronze Medallist



Jason Campbell
SEC Offensive Player of the Year



Kye Whyte
Olympic BMX Silver Medallist

Our Impact

Through education, sport and personal development, we help young students build brighter futures, on and off the field.



Academic & Destinations

POSITIVE PATHWAYS FOR THE FUTURE

100%

of Year 11 students move into a positive destination.

100%

progress to further education.

Sporting Achievement

BUILDING TALENT, OPENING DOORS

85%

of students take part in extra-curricular sport.

Wellbeing & Engagement

HAPPIER, MORE CONFIDENT YOUNG PEOPLE

87%

average attendance rate

100%

participation in mentoring and therapeutic sessions

In Their Own Words

SURVEY VOICE

“Arco helped me believe in myself and gave me opportunities I never thought possible.”

STUDENT

“The support, structure and opportunities at Arco have made a real difference to my son's confidence.”

PARENT

“Seeing our students grow in confidence, both in and out of the classroom, is incredibly rewarding.”

STAFF



In Their Own Words

Real feedback from the people who know Arco best, our students, parents, staff and partner schools.

"I screamed with excitement when ARCO told me they were going to fund my son's flight training! Becoming a pilot has been his dream for as long as I can remember. He was so happy to meet real-life pilots, learn from them, and take a step closer to achieving his dream. ARCO has made such a huge difference in my son's life, and we are incredibly grateful for the support they have given him."

MS O, PARENT

Arco Academy is transforming my son's behaviour and attitude towards studying into a better young adult for society. I am amazed by everything that is happening. My son looks forward to school every day, and I am sincerely happy with all the staff at Arco and what they are doing to bring out the best in my son. A really massive THANK YOU!

MRS MF, PARENT

I love it at Arco! Coming from my previous provisions, the environment and quality of education were a lot better. Everyone was so welcoming, and the staff really helped me to achieve the grade I needed and improve my overall behaviour in education.

WALAA, ARCO ALUMNI

I have incredible faith in the expert leadership of the academy. Arco Academy prides itself on its high expectations for our students, and I feel Arco students have a greater chance of success because of the belief the staff have in them. Positive role models and strong relationships, along with a well-constructed curriculum, give students a sense of belonging and purpose, offering an outstanding provision.

JONATHAN RONAN, CEO, ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



Admissions
A Brighter Future Starts Here

We make the admissions process simple and supportive, so every student can access the opportunities they deserve quickly.

How to join Arco Academy

1 Enquire
Get in touch with our team to find out more.

2 Visit
Come and see the Academy in action and meet our team.

3 Referral
Complete the referral process with your school or local authority.

4 Welcome
Once confirmed, we'll support your child's induction.

Bursaries & Scholarships

Bursaries and scholarships are available to help remove financial barriers and ensure every student can access the opportunities at Arco Academy. Speak to our admissions team to find out more about eligibility.



Book a Visit

Come and see Arco Academy for yourself, meet the team, tour the facilities, and get every question answered.

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TIKTOK
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KEY FACTS

- Southwark, London
- EHCP Inclusive School
- ISA and ISC Member
- Ages 11–16, non-selective
- Small Class Sizes
- A Supportive, Inclusive Learning Environment
- Onsite Therapy
- Daily Sports