

Edinburgh Steiner School

EDUCATING FOR A CREATIVE FUTURE



“My Waldorf education helped me develop my creativity. Training in the arts, especially classical music but also painting and writing, trains the mind because it teaches a person that one cannot be creative and innovative if one doesn’t first master a skill. Creativity comes on top of technical ability”.

Joint Nobel Prize Winner in Medicine 2013 (Neuroscience), Professor Thomas Sudhof is Patron of Acknowledging Creative Thinking Skills (ACTS), the multinational 3-year project founded by members of the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship. A suite of innovative qualifications for 14-18 year olds arose out of the project, combining the highly-focused, analytic thinking and memory training often involved in formal education with the softer focus, non-verbal experience of interconnections and context that can be found in non-formal and informal learning to encourage the development and recognition of a spectrum of creative thinking skills. Edinburgh Steiner School is to be a center for the delivery of the first of these qualifications: Integrated Education Certificate (IEC).



Increasingly valued for its kinaesthetic approach, the school became an educational flagship with the introduction of Curriculum for Excellence, its holistic approach based upon the principles of the internationally recognised Steiner Waldorf curriculum, now in its 100th year. It’s programme ensures that whilst it consistently obtains above average exam results, appearing in the Sunday Times top ten

schools in Scotland in the most recent year SCIS schools taking Highers were included in the table, all pupils receive a broad education which encompasses science, art, crafts and the humanities, irrespective of their exam choices. ‘The school has successfully maintained high standards of academic achievement over recent years’ (Education Scotland report, May 2019).

The Centennial is seen as an occasion to further develop Waldorf education for our time, focusing consciously on its global dimensions as part of a movement that has 1,200 schools worldwide. With the growing need for young people to practise the necessary skillset required to meet an ever increasing array of social, political, economic and natural challenges, from disaffected youth to climate change, becoming a provider of the Certificate has the potential to put Edinburgh Steiner School at the center of high school educational debate in Scotland for a second time in a decade.

The international Steiner curriculum develops analytical, logical and reasoning skills as education has always done, but it also encourages the development of imagination, creativity, memory and flexible thinking – skills highly prized in today’s society. EU assessors praised the ACTS project as: ‘offering a highly credible, valid, portable alternative with results that would not be possible or desirable if developed by a single country’. Two modern foreign languages - French and German - are taught from the age of six years.

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