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**BECOME AN ASSOCIATE SCHOOL**

**JOIN A GROUND-BREAKING PROGRAMME AND WORK WITH SCHOOLS AROUND THE COUNTRY TO BRING SHAKESPEARE’S WORK TO LIFE**

The Associate Schools programme is the RSC’s national partnership project run by schools and regional theatres, in partnership with the RSC. The fundamental ambition of the Associate Schools programme is to transform experiences of Shakespeare and live theatre for young people.

Alongside transformational continuing professional development for teachers, the programme includes unique opportunities for students in performance, leadership and career development.

Springhead Primary School in Talke Pits, Newcastle under Lyme, is a Lead Associate School in this exciting programme and leads a cluster of schools in partnership with the Regional Theatre partner, The New Vic Theatre in Newcastle under Lyme, which involves teachers, students and the wider community.

**Get involved**

We are recruiting Primary and Special schools to join us as Associate Schools.

We are looking for schools with at least two teachers that will lead the programme in their school, have senior management and governor support and will be committed to engage fully for a minimum of two years.

The programme is suitable for Primary teachers (who may be a Literacy Lead) from both Key Stages 1 and 2.

**By joining the Associate Schools Programme you will be able to:**

• Join a vibrant regional and national network;

• Develop the teaching practice of Shakespeare in your school;

• Access unique opportunities for staff development;

• Work with RSC practitioners and practitioners from your regional theatre (where relevant);

• Take part in local and national performance festivals of work by young people;

• Access opportunities for students interested in a career in theatre;

• Take part in student leadership programmes;

• Take part in exciting national projects;

• Become part of a national research programme about the impact of Shakespeare’s work on young people;

•Receive support towards becoming an Artsmark school.

**What schools say about the Associate Schools Programme:**

*The active, collaborative approaches to exploring the plays have not only impacted on the children’s writing but also on their behaviour, empathy, resilience and relationships…. It is no coincidence that this has occurred whilst we have been working with the RSC.*

Primary Headteacher, Stoke-on-Trent

*When looking at the breakdown of results for the English literature GCSE we can see that our school outperformed other centres on the Shakespeare section – hugely! This is a real testament to our work with the RSC, especially as this particular cohort were the first to experience rehearsal room pedagogy and the various other RSC enrichment activities.*

Head of English, Secondary School, Barking

*All pupils experience the world of Shakespeare through lessons which explore rich language and drama. Inspectors observed pupils, many of whom had a history of challenging behaviour, captivated as they explored act 4 scene 3 of ‘Julius Caesar’.*

Ofsted Report, 2018, Primary School, County Durham

**Financial commitment**

Each school in the cluster will contribute £---- towards the cost of the programme. This will cover ……….[add more detail here e.g. one year’s/two year’s activity] and will be payable by …….[add date].

**Application process**

If you wish to apply, please complete the attached Expression of Interest document, and return it to .... [add name] by .....[add date]. If your recruitment of Associate Schools will involve a launch event/interviews or phone calls, please add details and deadlines here.

**Questions?**

Please contact ............[add contact details].

*You may want to add a quote from your Head Teacher*

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Ofsted Report, 2018, Primary School, County Durham

**Financial commitment**

Each school in the cluster will contribute £550 per year towards the cost of the programme. This will cover all training and CPD by RSC Practitioners, by the Partner Theatre and Lead School and participation in sharing work within our cluster and is payable by the end of the Summer Terms 2021 and 2022

**Application process**

If you wish to apply, please complete the attached Expression of Interest document, and return it to Jill Rezzano – [jrezzano@newvictheatre.org.uk](mailto:jrezzano@newvictheatre.org.uk) by Friday 28 May 2021. Interviews will take place via Teams on Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 July 2021.

**Questions?**

Please contact: Jill Rezzano – Head of Education, New Vic Theatre.

[jrezzano@newvictheatre.org.uk](mailto:jrezzano@newvictheatre.org.uk)

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Springhead Primary School

