



DRAMA

DEPARTMENT IN FOCUS

MARCH 2022

"ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE, AND ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN MERELY PLAYERS"

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 'AS YOU LIKE IT'

Why do we love drama? Well, what's not to love?

Theatre can be whatever you want it to be; escapism, a fun evening out, a (literal) stage for debate, a safe space for students to explore the world through another person's eyes and learn more about themselves in the process - the list is endless!

There really is a distinct 'magic' that resides within theatre. We are constantly challenged by it, surprised by how diverse and powerful it can be, and amazed by the fantastic end result that can come from our young actors pouring an incredible amount of hard work and passion into one great performance.

After a few years of setbacks and cancellations due to the restrictions of the pandemic, we are especially excited to be entering 2022 with a bang by performing our whole school production of *Bugsy Malone* this month.

It's been so amazing to get back into the rehearsal room with passionate performing arts students across all year groups and hope you will come and support their months of hard work on the 30th and 31st of March - it's a show not to be missed!

But don't just take it from us, here's what our students have to say about drama at Altrincham College!

Drama is great because it's a lesson that has mostly practical work. I like that there are lots of different characters we get to play over the years and given feedback on how to get better. It has also taught me lots of skills such as facial expressions and gestures, which can help me in the future even if I don't decide to study drama anymore.

- Year 9

Drama is really exciting because we get to do so many different things that we didn't get to do in primary. My favourite part so far was reading Ernie's Incredible Illusions because it was funny. We had to perform some of the script on our own which made me really nervous, but has now made me really confident talking in front of the class and makes me excited for future performances.

- Year 7



UPCOMING EVENTS



BUGSY MALONE

School Production

30th and 31st March 2022 @ 6:30pm

All welcome!

Tickets now available on Parent Pay

OTHER NOTABLE DATES

Seize the Day

18th March 2022

Inviting MPs to children & young people's theatre

World Theatre Day

27th March 2022

A celebration of theatre

MEET THE TEAM



Mrs Mrozinski
Head of Department

Mrs Mrozinski has worked at this school for 16 years now. Her favourite drama practitioner is Bertolt Brecht and she loves devising using verbatim theatre. Over the years, she has directed many school productions but she is particularly excited about this year's show Bugsy Malone as it is over six years ago since the school last had all of the performing arts departments working together on a production.

Mrs Mrozinski grew up, and still lives, in Warrington. She went to Edge Hill university to study drama before moving to Chester University to complete her teacher training.

During her time Altrincham College she has had various other roles outside of the drama department. She was Head of Year for year 11 until 2014 when she stepped down to raise her own children. She is also currently an Early Careers Mentor which means working, supporting, and mentoring new teachers into the profession. Many students often ask Mrs Mrozinski, "if you weren't teaching what would you do?" to which she replies that she is "living the dream. I have only ever wanted to be a teacher, I love what I do".

Mrs Mrozinski likes to keep herself busy and in her spare time is a parent helper at Brownies and Beavers. She's also a qualified exercise to music teacher. If she does get any free time she can usually be found watching productions at the local theatres.



Miss Matthews
Teacher of Drama and Dance

A new face at Altrincham College, Miss Matthews is a specialist in Musical Theatre following her degree in Musical Theatre and Dance from the University of Cumbria.

After graduating, she began working back stage across the country with many professional theatre productions and celebrity actors - her favourite two cast members being Richard McCourt (Dick & Dom) and James Phelps (Fred Weasley from Harry Potter).

She's also taught and managed a number of Stagecoach Performing Arts schools across the north working with hundreds of young actors and putting on 30+ musicals and plays. Alongside Altrincham College, Miss Matthews is also a private singing teacher working with 6 to 66 year olds!

Her favourite drama practitioners are Frantic Assembly who use physical theatre to tell their stories. She highly recommends their work called 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime' which our students will study in year 9!

RECENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS...

Christmas Concert Event

Some of our Year 10 students recently devised their own take on the Christmas Classic, A Christmas Carol. Here's what they had to say about their experience!

During the recreation of A Christmas Carol, we came up with the idea of dividing Scrooge into three characters: The Miser, The Unsettled, and The Purified. Each person played one role to express the change in personality of Scrooge between the years by using a change in performers who would all gather at the end and give a short speech together explaining the true meaning of Christmas. We had lots of fun behind the scenes while creating this performance as it was not only for entertainment but to spread a message: The spirit of Christmas is the spirit of a joyful community. Performing the piece was an excellent taste of an actor's point of view which I thought was very enjoyable and beneficial to me as a drama student.

- Ali E.

I've had a great time creating and performing a piece for the Christmas concert. It was a great opportunity to practice working as a team and making something yourself. I really enjoyed every minute of every rehearsal and the actual performance.

- Daryna S.

In December, 2021 I created and performed a piece inspired by A Christmas Carol with 2 other students. We each wrote a monologue from Scrooge's perspective and performed them, adding movement and dialogue. I really enjoyed the process, especially the performance, as it helped to create confidence and an ability to get into character.

- Oilly M.



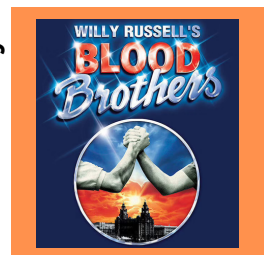
2022 THEATRE TRIPS...

12th January



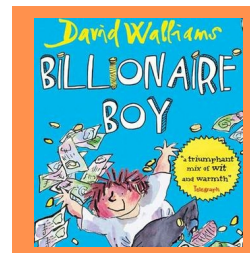
Year 9
School of Rock
Manchester Palace Theatre

17th February



Year 11
Blood Brothers
Manchester Palace Theatre

9th March



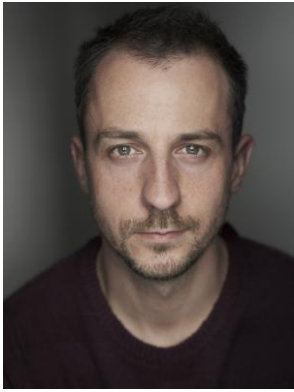
Year 7
Billionaire Boy
Manchester Palace Theatre

16th March



Year 8
Bedknobs and Broomsticks
Manchester Palace Theatre

RECENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS...



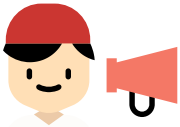
On Wednesday the 2nd of March 2022, year 11 drama students, a group of year nine students as well as the Buggy Malone cast all participated in a series of workshops led by professional actor and theatre company owner, Rick Bithell.

He is very passionate about encouraging young people to embrace the power of theatre as a practical skill which they can use to build confidence and skills in public speaking. He has also directed and produced various productions and has performed in many TV series such as Emmerdale and Coronation Street.



We enjoyed working as a group to plan and act the play, as well as being able to get a feel of what working in theatre would be like.

- Kade T.

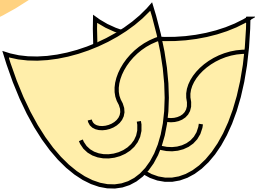
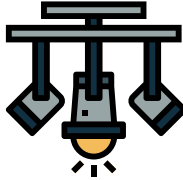


It was a really positive experience working with my friends and learning new material I'd never heard of before.

- Dana N.

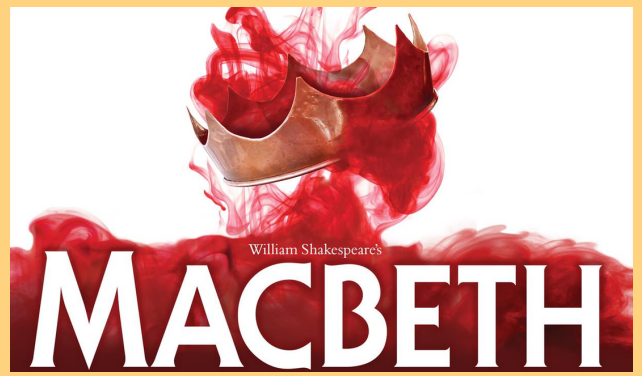
Today, I enjoyed learning about what jobs you could get within theatre that don't include acting. It was also fun to play a variety of roles and receive acting tips from a professional.

- Chloe S.



It was fun working with my friends from other classes and being able to discuss our ideas and opinions of performances

- James S.

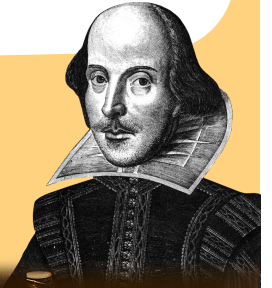


Macbeth Workshop

GCSE drama students took part in a Macbeth workshop on Monday, the 14th of February. The session was led by a UCEN tutor Alan and his second year acting students. They performed the whole play and our students took part in a QA workshop to understand their knowledge of the text.

Having Arden Theatre come in and perform Macbeth was an eye-opening experience especially for those of us that are studying Macbeth for our GCSE drama performance. I loved how involved we were as an audience and it really ignited my love for theatre again. It's made me consider pursuing acting as a career.

- Millie HM.



Did you know...

If you say Macbeth in a theatre you are meant to walk three times in a circle anticlockwise.

Did you know...

Thespian comes from the word Thespis, the father of Greek tragedy.

Did you know...

It's considered bad luck to tell someone 'good luck' before a performance. Instead, actors will tell each other to 'break a leg'!