

Become an Associate School

Join a groundbreaking programme and work with schools around the country to bring Shakespeare's work to life.

The Associate Schools Programme is the Royal Shakespeare Company's national partnership project run by schools and regional theatres. 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.

The programme includes schools from all across Kent arranged into two cluster groups. Each cluster will include experienced schools who have been in the programme for several years as well as new schools. Three of these schools will bring a wealth of experience to the programme and will act as mentor schools, offering support in their specialist areas of primary education, secondary education, and special educational needs.

Get involved

We are recruiting primary, secondary 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 most suitable for secondary English and Drama teachers and primary teachers (who may be the Literacy Lead) from either key stage one or two. 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.

"The partnership between The Canterbury Academy, the RSC and The Marlowe is now in its eighth year and we continue to build on countless achievements from this time. We are proud of the strong relationships we have established with our cluster schools, which allow us all to learn from each other. Through the high-quality training the Associate Schools Programme provides, staff develop the confidence and creativity to enable the young people in their schools to respond creatively to academic work within school and of course, experience the unique thrill and lifelong memories that come with the high-profile performance opportunities this partnership offers."

Mr J Watson, Executive Vice Principal, The Canterbury Academy Trust



“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

“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. These approaches have impacted on this.”

Primary Headteacher, Stoke-on-Trent

Financial commitment

Each school in the cluster will contribute £750 per year towards the cost of the programme. This will cover CPD for teachers in your schools, workshops for students and performance opportunities at The Marlowe. It will be payable to The Marlowe Theatre.

Application process

If you wish to apply, please complete the attached expression of interest document, and return it to education@marlowetheatre.com by Friday 16 June. Interviews will be held either at your school site or The Marlowe Theatre in the weeks beginning Monday 3 July & Monday 10 July.

Questions?

Please contact education@marlowetheatre.com if you have any further questions.



The work of the RSC Learning and National Partnerships department is generously supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The Clore Duffield Foundation, The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, GRoW @ Annenberg, The Polonsky Foundation, Stratford Town Trust, The Goldsmiths’ Company Charity, Teale Charitable Trust, The Grimitt Trust and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.