

# 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 long-term partnership programme with 16 theatres and over 250 state-maintained primary and secondary schools across England.

It uses the combination of Shakespeare's work and RSC teaching approaches to improve learning outcomes for children and young people.

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

In Kent, the programme includes schools from all across the region 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. Five 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 our cluster as Associate Schools.

The programme focuses on schools and communities in areas of structural disadvantage, i.e. areas that are disadvantaged by the way resources are allocated and are under-served by the arts and cultural sector.

To be eligible for the Associate Schools Programme, we are looking for **state-maintained schools** who ideally have **above the national average** of students eligible for Free School Meals.

We expect Associate Schools to:

- Commit to engage fully for a minimum of two years;
- Nominate at least two teachers that will lead the programme in their school;
- Be fully supported by senior management and school governors.

The programme is most suitable for secondary English and Drama teachers and primary teachers (especially those who may be the Literacy Lead).

## 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. These approaches have impacted on this."

**Primary Headteacher, Stoke-on-Trent**

"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**



## What is involved?

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 and embed active approaches to text in your classrooms.
- Access unique opportunities for staff development.
- Become part of a national research programme about the impact of Shakespeare's work on young people.
- Take part in local and national performance festivals of work by young people.
- Take part in student leadership programmes.
- Access opportunities for students interested in a career in theatre.
- Work with RSC practitioners and practitioners from the Marlowe Theatre.

## What is the impact?

We have undertaken research to measure the impact of the Associate Schools Programme on learning outcomes for children and young people.

Our latest research study, Time to Act, makes a direct link between RSC approaches to teaching Shakespeare and improvements in language development, specifically in writing, as well as developments in the emotional and social skills of children and young people.

For more information about our research, visit [www.rsc.org.uk/learn/research](http://www.rsc.org.uk/learn/research)

## Financial commitment

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

## Application process

If you wish to apply, please complete the expression of interest form, and return it to [education@marlowetheatre.com](mailto:education@marlowetheatre.com) by 5pm on Monday 16 June. Interviews will be held at the Marlowe Theatre in the weeks beginning Monday 30 June and Monday 7 July.

## Questions?

Please contact [education@marlowetheatre.com](mailto:education@marlowetheatre.com) if you have any further questions.

To find out more about the Associate Schools Programme, visit [www.rsc.org.uk/learn/associate-schools-programme](http://www.rsc.org.uk/learn/associate-schools-programme)

“You hear children talking about Shakespeare around the school and in the playground. It’s penetrated everywhere from children in the classrooms to parents at the gate.”

**Headteacher**



**MARLOWE  
THEATRE**