

COURTYARD
HEREFORD

**EDUCATION
& OUTREACH**

EDUCATION PACK



BOX OFFICE **01432 340555**

courtyard.org.uk

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ENGLAND**



MEET THE TEAM



DAVID

David Durant is The Associate Director for The Courtyard, Herefordshire's Centre for The Arts and Head of the Education, Participation and Programming department.

As part of his role he is responsible for programming all the Live events, strategically leading the Youth Participation and Creative Ageing teams and directing many of the in house shows. Past shows include: The Jungle Book, History Boys, Lord of The Flies, Pride & Prejudice, Hansel & Gretel, The Snow Queen and Little Red Riding Hood.

David has worked for The Courtyard for over 9 years and in that time seen big changes; but one thing that hasn't changed, is the organisations commitment to Education & Participation, particularly through arts based projects.



ELLEN

Ellen Dorsett is the Youth & Communities Participation Manager at the Courtyard, helping young people to discover their creativity and develop their talents.

During Ellen's time at The Courtyard, she has worked with hundreds of young people through schools work and also through the Courtyard's thriving Youth Theatre. Ellen particularly loves directing and is passionate about providing many opportunities for young people to perform and platforms for them to showcase their abilities.

Ellen believes that the arts play a vital role in a young person's development, especially drama. At the heart of everything Ellen does is the young people, and making sure the Courtyard is offering a varied, interesting and beneficial programme of work for the young people of this community. Ellen holds a BA (Hons) Joint Honours degree in Drama, Film & TV from Manchester Metropolitan University and is a trained Arts Award adviser for all levels.



LEXI

Lexi Myers is the Programming Assistant and Participation Administrator at The Courtyard. Lexi assists David Durant, The Associate Director, and the Education Team to provide an inclusive and accessible environment that inspires young people to learn, develop and create.

With a career spanning over 20 years working in casting for a London based Management Company and a nationwide children's casting agency, Lexi has also worked in the public and private sectors of education and SEN.

A champion of the arts, Lexi is passionate about supporting drama in education and is available to inform, discuss and book your educational requirements.

To get in touch with Lexi or another member of the team, please email takepart@courtyard.org.uk.

MEET THE TEAM



Photo: Esther Pandeli

JAMIE

Jamie Hutton is an Education Officer and Youth Theatre leader at The Courtyard. Jamie began his interest in the arts as a member of the Courtyard Youth Theatre from the age of eight and continued acting in productions right up until he left at aged eighteen. He appeared in such productions as *The Wind in the Willows* and *A Comedy of Errors*. Jamie attended Loughborough University where he studied English Literature and American Studies. Whilst at university he continued to perform in plays such as *The Crucible*. He graduated in 2017 after completing an MA in English Literature. He then returned to the Courtyard Theatre, working as a barman before moving to the Education department in 2019. During this time he amassed a diverse range of experience working with young people through different organisations and volunteer work, before becoming a member of the Youth Theatre team.



BECKY

Rebecca Cook is an Education Officer and Youth Theatre leader at The Courtyard. She is a trained dance and drama practitioner who loves the positive impact the arts have upon young people. Rebecca has worked for various arts organisations across the Midlands before coming to The Courtyard. Since working here, she has directed numerous productions and taught in schools and Youth Theatres across Herefordshire. She loves The Courtyard's mission of captivating, inspiring and celebrating young people through a variety of different projects. Rebecca leads on our inclusive programme, supported by Children in Need, making our work more accessible and inclusive both in schools and at The Courtyard. She also leads on our project #TalkAwayDontWalkAway which raises awareness about mental health and promotes positive wellbeing. Rebecca holds a BA in Film, Theatre and Television from the University of Reading and is trained in delivering Arts Award.



KATE

Kate Ross is an Education Officer and Youth Theatre Leader at The Courtyard. Originally a secondary school teacher by profession, Kate also established and ran a theatre company and performance academy in the North East. Since moving to Herefordshire she has worked in different capacities supporting vulnerable young people. This has been through teaching in local schools, outreach work and writing and directing a community pantomime. With over 16 years of experience teaching performance, writing, directing and producing youth theatre, Kate is excited to grasp every opportunity in her new role and see even more young people flourish and excel.

TERMLY SCHOOLS WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

The Courtyard's Education Team run various workshops and projects that run throughout the school year, covering all aspects of the curriculum.

AUTUMN TERM

BARD AT THE YARD - SHAKESPEARE PROJECT

OVERVIEW: This project consists of 5 workshops looking at different aspects of a chosen Shakespeare play. The groups participating in this project will also work towards creating a performance that they will bring to the Courtyard and perform on the main stage for family and friends.

WHO IT IS AIMED AT: We would recommend this project for year 5 & 6 classes, but younger Key Stage 2 are welcome to participate.

OUTCOME: This is a great project for introducing children to Shakespeare and getting them engaged with and excited about the Bard's work. Performing their pieces at The Courtyard at the end of the project gives them something to work towards but is also a great way of celebrating their achievements.

BONUS: We provide an activity pack that includes exercises to help reinforce the work we do in the sessions, tasks that will help them prepare for the performance and homework suggestions.

ANTI-BULLYING WORKSHOP

OVERVIEW: We provide one off workshops during anti-bullying week. This can be a very popular workshop and is great as part of the schools programme.

WHO IT IS AIMED AT: For younger years (KS1) the workshops are based around friendship and for older years (KS2) the workshops look at the different types of bullying and what to do if bullying is happening.

OUTCOME: Young people have a good understanding of what bullying is, the different types and what to do if it is happening to them or someone they know.

FAMILY FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS

OVERVIEW: These fun, engaging and all-inclusive workshops will be run alongside our very popular Family Festival. Our team will facilitate workshops that are based on the particular theme of the festival. These workshops will involve a whole range of drama and arts & crafts activities.

WHO IT IS AIMED AT: All KS1, KS2 & KS3 students, including SEN/D students.

OUTCOME: Students will engage in new activities and create something that will be part of the Family Festival.

TERMLY SCHOOLS WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

The Courtyard's Education Team run various workshops and projects that run throughout the school year, covering all aspects of the curriculum.

AUTUMN TERM

#TALKAWAYDONTWALKAWAY MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

OVERVIEW: #TalkAwayDontWalkAway aims to open up the discussion around mental health with young people and to support them with ways in which they can help themselves and one another. Schools are encouraged to book for this project in the Autumn or Spring term so that they can take part in The Courtyard's annual Mental Health Sharing Day in May. However, workshops can be delivered all year round. The project can be delivered via in-person workshops with one of our trained practitioners, or there is an option to purchase a digital package which includes 5 video workshops and a host of resources (see 'ongoing workshops' page)

WHO IT IS AIMED AT: Key Stages 1 - 4

OUTCOME: Young people will bust the myths surrounding mental health and learn ways of promoting positive wellbeing in their day-to-day lives

BONUS: Primary school students will receive an activity booklet to complete after the session. Secondary/college students will receive an information booklet with key information and useful contacts. Schools who participate in the #TalkAwayDontWalkAway project are also invited to perform as part of the Mental Health Sharing Day in May.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SHOW WORKSHOPS

OVERVIEW: The Courtyard now produces its own Children's Christmas Show each year, and we offer workshops alongside it. The workshops are themed around the specific show and we are continually developing these workshops to make sure they are the best they can be.

WHO IT IS AIMED AT: Early Years & Key Stage 1 classes. We also offer a story telling workshop to nurseries as part of this project.

OUTCOME: Simple drama activities will get the children involved and engaged with the story.

BONUS: We provide an activity pack that includes lots of fun exercises that can be done in class.



TERMLY SCHOOLS WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

SPRING TERM

WORLD BOOK DAY WORKSHOP

Overview: Workshops based around a book of your choice, a great addition to your schools celebrations around World Book Day. Why not book us for a full day and get all your classes involved?

Who it is aimed at: All Early Years, KS1, KS2 & KS3 students and teachers looking to bring books alive!

Outcome: Students engage with the stories and take ownership of them, whilst using their creative skills to bring them to life

ROALD DAHL LITERACY PROJECT

Overview: This project consists of 5 workshops looking at different aspects of a chosen Dahl story. Practitioners are assigned a school which they work with throughout the duration of the project, this helps to develop a good relationship between the practitioner and the schools. The project ends with the groups creating a performance based on their chosen story which they bring to The Courtyard and perform on the main stage for family and friends.

Who it is aimed at: We would recommend this project for year 3 & 4 classes, but older Key Stage 2 are welcome to participate.

Outcome: This very popular project really helps children engage with drama and develop literacy skills.

Bonus: We provide an activity pack that includes exercises to help reinforce the work we do in the sessions, tasks that will help them prepare for the performance and homework suggestions.



TERMLY SCHOOLS WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

SUMMER TERM

CHILDREN'S SHOW WORKSHOPS

Overview: Every Summer Term we have a younger children's show that comes to The Courtyard that we will run workshops alongside. In the past we have done workshops for 'The Gruffalo', 'The Gruffalo's Child' and 'Tiddler'.

Who it is aimed at: Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2 classes

Outcome: Schools can choose to have the workshop before they come to see the show, which is a really nice introduction to the story and gets the children really excited about their theatre visit. Or the workshop can be after, which is then a fantastic follow on and makes the most of what inspired the children (and is the perfect opportunity for them to re-enact their favourite parts!).

LEVELLING UP WORKSHOP

Overview: These workshops are specifically designed for year 6 students to help reassure them about the transition from Primary to Secondary school. It can be a daunting prospect but these fun workshops will use different drama exercises to address their concerns and will help them to come up with solutions.

Who it is aimed at: Year 6 students. However, this can be adapted for Infants going into Juniors, for example.

Outcome: Students will feel more positive and confident about the transition. This workshop is great for all students moving up to Secondary school but is particularly valuable for those who are feeling anxious about the transition.

KID LIT - CHILDREN'S LITERACY PROJECT

Overview: Kid Lit includes a 500 word short story writing competition, as well as talks and interactive workshops with well-known children's authors for different age categories.

Who it is aimed at: Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2 classes

Outcome: Inspiration and motivation to develop creative writing skills whilst promoting imagination and literacy.

"The benefit from the program was remarkable and the skills the children developed transferred into their writing. Children grew in confidence and for some of our children the experience of standing on stage was significant. The children loved every session but also developing their own performance which was led by themselves. The progress they made was evident across the curriculum."

**Hampton Dene
Primary School**

ONGOING WORKSHOPS

These workshops we run throughout the academic year and can be booked at a time to suit you.

SCIENCE THROUGH MOVEMENT

Overview: These workshops look at bringing science topics to life through movement and kinaesthetic learning. Topics we offer include Forces, The Human Body, Electricity and Space.

Who it is aimed at: Key Stage 2 Students.

Who it will benefit: Those who may struggle within a classroom environment but excel in practical learning. These workshops can either be used as an introduction to a topic or as a revision tool, particularly for those in year 6 preparing for SATS.

Outcome: Boosting students confidence and engagement with science topics.

PLAY IN A DAY

Overview: Create a drama performance with your class whilst learning about your favourite history topic – and all in a day! Students will bring to life historical facts and characters to create a performance that can be shared with the rest of the school. Topics include The Tudors, Vikings, Ancient Egyptians and many more!

Who it is aimed at: Key Stage 2 Students.

Who it will benefit: This will be a class project that will use their knowledge, creativity and teamwork to create a performance that they are proud of and can even perform to their school.

Outcome: Students will feel more positive and confident about their chosen topic whilst boosting their performance skills.



ONGOING WORKSHOPS

These workshops we run throughout the academic year and can be booked at a time to suit you.

SEN/D WORKSHOPS

Overview: Drama workshops aimed specifically for SEN/D students with our trained practitioner to boost confidence, communication and creativity.

Who it is aimed at: SEN/D students of all ages.

Who it will benefit: Students who will benefit from working in a smaller group, building on their life and social skills in an inclusive and accessible environment.

Outcome: Boosting confidence, creativity and engagement through the arts.

#TALKAWAYDONTWALKAWAY DIGITAL MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

Overview: #TalkAwayDontWalkAway aims to open up the discussion around mental health with young people and to support them with ways in which they can help themselves and one another. The Digital Package is offered as a termly subscription and includes access to five workshops plus a host of resources.

Who it is aimed at: Key Stage 2 Students.

Who it will benefit: Raising awareness of simple ways we can look after our wellbeing through a variety of fun workshops.

Outcome: Pupils will boost their knowledge about mental health whilst having fun!



These workshops are ones that we run on a regular basis but we also love to create unique workshops or projects for schools, whether it is curriculum based or to help with your end of year show.

We can adapt all of our workshops to different needs and abilities. If you would like to find out more about any of the workshops we run, please get in touch.

Workshop prices on application. Please email takepart@courtyard.org.uk or contact Lexi Myers, our Programming and Participation Administrator on 01432 346526.

SPECIALIST WORKSHOPS

As well as our termly workshop programme and ongoing workshops, which can be adapted for older years, we also provide a specific programme of work.

SPECIALIST WORKSHOPS

Overview: One of our trained practitioners can run either a one off workshop or a series of workshops to support a particular unit of work.

We can provide the following workshops:

- Physical Theatre
- Clowning and circus skills
- Stage combat
- Dance in any of the following styles; tap, ballet, jazz, modern, street, contemporary, musical theatre
- Singing
- Director's session

Outcome: One or more of these workshops can be booked to develop new skills, enhance learning and provide students with vital academic tools.



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE COURTYARD

WORK EXPERIENCE & PLACEMENTS

Overview: We offer week long work experience places throughout the year. During their time with us students get to; experience working in each department, learn about the different job roles throughout the building, assist with events and see what is involved with the day to day running of an Arts Centre. Due to the nature of The Courtyard, every work experience week is different and each student will get a true insight into what it is like to work at The Courtyard.

We can also offer placements to students who are looking for longer term work experience.



INTERACT WITH THE COURTYARD

Overview: A two-hour workshop exploring the different job opportunities there are within an Arts Centre. Students will learn about the different departments within The Courtyard, the responsibilities of each role and the work that goes in to putting on events at an Arts venue.

Outcome: Students will have a greater understanding of the career opportunities within the arts and the parts the roles play in producing events.

DID YOU KNOW WE CAN PROVIDE PPA COVER?

Children can learn and engage with The Arts whilst still learning about their curriculum.

Our PPA cover offers your school;

- The chance to have a professional drama practitioner deliver your PPA
- Practitioners who will engage your pupils using different learning styles; Spatial, Auditory, Linguistic, Kinesthetic and Interpersonal.
- Drama workshops based on the topics and themes that your pupils are currently learning about.

Our Practitioners are highly qualified and experienced and can tailor make the PPA cover to best utilise that time for you and your pupils.

To discuss or book please email takepart@courtyard.org.uk or call our Programming and Participation Administrator, Lexi Myers on 01432 346526

