

**COURTYARD**  
HEREFORD

**EDUCATION  
& OUTREACH**

# EDUCATION PACK



BOX OFFICE **01432 340555**

[courtyard.org.uk](http://courtyard.org.uk)

In partnership with



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

# MEET THE TEAM



DAVID

**David Durant** is the Associate Director and Head of Participation and Programming at The Courtyard Arts Centre Hereford, and brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his role. David's primary responsibility is to direct and produce productions and oversee the artistic output of the organisation. He is deeply involved in programming all live events and visual arts works, ensuring that the organisation presents a diverse and exciting range of artistic experiences for the community. With a strong commitment to inclusivity, David strives to create opportunities for people from all backgrounds to engage with the arts. He leads the Participation and Programming department in developing innovative programmes that foster creativity, collaboration, and social connection. David is deeply committed to ensuring young people and schools gain access to quality arts activities that support their growth and development and believes passionately in the transformative power of the arts. David holds a BA (Hons) in Acting and an MBA in Arts Leadership and CMI Level 7.



ELLEN

**Ellen Dorsett** is the 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](mailto: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 age eight and continued performing in productions right up until he left for university aged 18.

At university Jamie studied English where he developed an interest in not just drama but writing and literature as well. After leaving Jamie returned to Hereford and began working for The Courtyard Education Team in 2019. Since then he has directed numerous shows and lead on a wide variety of projects, gaining experience in working with a diverse range of young people.

He is passionate about empowering young people of all ages and building confidence and self-esteem through the arts.



**BECKY**

**Rebecca Cook** is an Inclusive Arts 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 helped to establish and run a theatre company and performance academy in the North East. After moving to Herefordshire she worked in different capacities supporting vulnerable young people through teaching, outreach work and the writing and directing of community pantomimes.

With nearly 20 years of experience teaching performance, writing, directing and producing youth theatre, Kate loves seeing the positive impact the arts can have on young people. Working at The Courtyard has enabled her to work with a team to facilitate a range of inspiring projects and engaging sessions that have given hundreds of local young people the opportunity to 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.



# 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.



# 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.

Choose from a range of texts from Classical, Fairytales and other genres. A full list will be provided upon enquiry.

### 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

### 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.

### WE ALSO PROVIDE

- PPA Cover
- Workshops alongside live shows
- Teacher CPD
- Bespoke Workshops

### 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.

*"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.

## 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](mailto: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
- Script Analysis
- Creative Writing
- Script Development
- Performance Skills Masterclass
- Audition Technique
- Devising
- Stage combat
- Dance in any of the following styles; tap, ballet, jazz, modern, street, contemporary, musical theatre
- Director's session



# FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

## 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.

## STAGE EXPERIENCE

**Overview:** Schools are invited to bring their students along to The Courtyard for the opportunity to get the full experience of performing on The Courtyard's Main Stage. The session will include a backstage tour, talk from the Technical Team and the chance for students to perform their chosen text on stage.

**Outcome:** Students experience performing in a professional space, supporting the development of performance skills whilst encouraging personal growth in areas such as confidence, spatial awareness and adaptability.

## 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](mailto:takepart@courtyard.org.uk) or call our Programming and Participation Administrator, Lexi Myers on 01432 346526**

