



St Alban's Academy

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE SPECIAL

خاص بشركة شيكسبير الملكية

KANBANIGA REER BOQOR EE SHAKISPEER WAA MID KHAAS AH



The ambassadors worked with each other to consider the qualities and skills needed to make their roles work.

A Message from Mr Gregory

Over the last three years St. Alban's has worked with the Royal Shakespeare Theatre to develop our work around the teaching and performance of Shakespeare's plays. This has been a tremendous opportunity for staff and students to learn from one of the most famous theatres in the world, and for our St Alban's community to benefit from their expertise. Highlights have included the performance of King Lear that took place at the start of the project - and was the final performance in the old school's hall - and the Shakespeare ambassadors programme, which has seen students study at length an area of theatre work. This week sees the culmination of our project with our students following in the footsteps of many great actors by performing on stage in the Swan Theatre in Stratford on Thursday. On Friday, they bring that performance back into St Alban's to share with us all. Having seen some of the rehearsals I can guarantee you will be astonished by the talent and discipline of our young actors, as they bring Shakespeare's plays about the life of English King Henry V to Highgate.

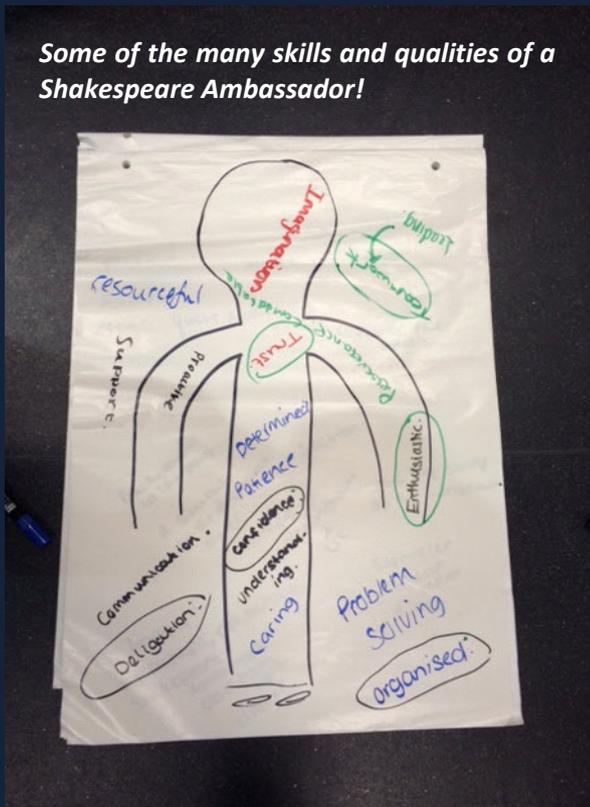


An Ark school

What an absolute privilege to take our seven Shakespeare Ambassadors to the RSC in Stratford on Tuesday 20th January to meet up with their respective buddy mentors. The students have all been assigned specific roles: directing, producing, front of house, marketing and graphics, stage management, education and props. These roles and responsibilities will be utilised in the upcoming production of, 'The Head That Wears A Crown' (including scenes from Henry IV Part One and Two and Henry V'). The play will feature a cast comprised of Year 8 and 9 students from St. Alban's in addition to students from four local schools. The performances will take place at both the magnificent Swan Theatre in Stratford and St Alban's Academy. This 'Shakespeare Festival' is the culmination of a three year collaboration between the RSC's 'Learning and Performance Network', St Alban's Academy and local Birmingham cluster schools.

The students - Sunni Singh, Niikki Zarin, Rami Hassan, Jehan Ahmed, Ashraf Islam, Entesar Saleh, and Sumayyah Mohammed were also privileged to have a backstage tour of both the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and the adjacent Swan auditorium. Sunni commented that it was great to see 'behind the scenes and the wings'.

Some of the many skills and qualities of a Shakespeare Ambassador!



Rami Hassan (Assistant Producer)



Jehan Ahmed (Front of House)

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR VERY OWN SHAKESPEARE AMBASSADORS

My favourite part of the trip to the RSC was meeting up with my professional buddy, Holly (she was very funny). I also really enjoyed brainstorming the skills and qualities of what it means to be a Shakespeare Ambassador. (Sumayyah Hamid - Props)

The best bit was meeting up with my buddy, speaking to him about my role and going around the Theatre to see what I'll be doing. (Jehan Ahmed - Front of House)

What I liked about the RSC trip is that we got to go backstage and through the wings, which was exciting. Also, I liked meeting my RSC buddy because I've learned more about staging and the kind of movements which actors have to make during their time on stage. I also liked to get to know the people who work at the RSC because without their help, we could never have had this experience. (Sunni Singh - Assistant Student Director)

When we went to the RSC, I enjoyed looking around the Theatre, especially backstage. I also enjoyed meeting Linda Fitzpatrick and understanding my role and the place I would (and will) have to work in. (Entesar Saleh - Assistant Stage Manager)

My favourite thing was meeting my partner for the festival and receiving more detail about what my peers and I will be doing leading up to the festival. I really enjoyed the whole day and am especially excited to meet Sophie again. Also, going backstage was amazing and I can't believe that soon we will perform in *The Swan* and have access to it! (Nikki Zarin - Education)

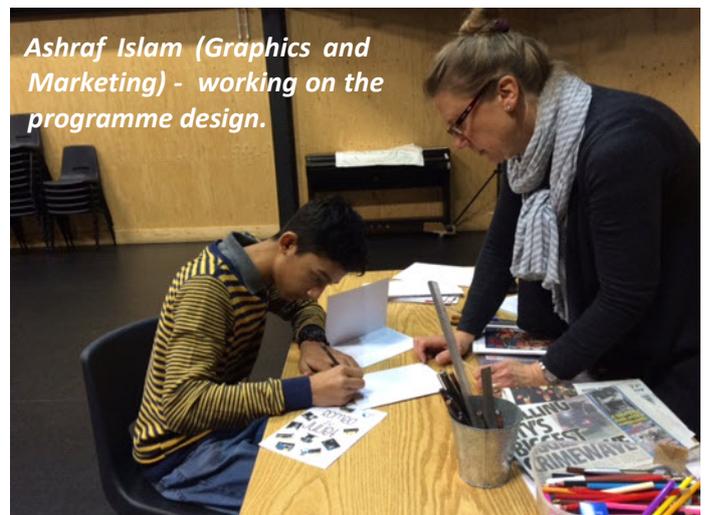
The best thing was meeting my RSC buddy, Lizzie. She explained to me what it is like to be a producer and after she told me what I needed to do, I was proud to be a producer. I didn't expect to be going backstage, but when I did, I found it really interesting. We also got to go in the theatre, which was awesome! (Rami Hassan - Assistant Producer)

What I enjoyed was that I was able to work with professionals from the Royal Shakespeare Company and I was able to show people my skills and my intelligence.

(Ashraf Islam - Graphics and Marketing)

THE RSC SAID...

"... I think we couldn't have picked better students, and they are all a perfect fit for their roles. They are exceptional young people and all the RSC staff who are being buddies said how impressed they were with their Ambassador." (Lizzie Rawlinson Project Manager: Learning and Performance Network)



Nikki Zarin (Education)



Sunni Singh (Assistant Director)



Sumayyah Hamid (Props)



Tensions rise as the English contemplate the battle approaching.



King Henry V (Faris Ahmed Yr 9) prays earnestly for his soldiers who will give their lives for him the very next day.



In disguise, King Henry V walks amongst his soldiers trying to discover the mood of the camp, the night before the big battle.

'The Head That Wears A Crown' will be performed at The Swan Theatre, Stratford on Thursday 5th March (2pm) and at St Alban's Academy on Friday 6th March (1.45pm).