



King's High
School

INSPIRE – DRAMA
Aspiring Creatives in Theatre (ACT)

Our ethos

Drama is important at King's. Whether our students aspire to have careers in the performing arts industry, or whether they want to develop their public speaking skills and build confidence, the subject offers something to everyone. As a department, we believe that Drama has the power not only to excite and stimulate audiences, but to hone crucial transferable life-skills for those who study it.

Academic Drama & Support

Curriculum Drama is taught by two specialist Drama teachers and delivered to every year group. It is a popular and successful subject at GCSE (with two groups each year) and A-Level (taught collaboratively with Warwick School). We are also supported by a full-time theatre technician who supports curriculum delivery and performances. All examined performances are open to the public, and exam results are outstanding: but more important is that students have wonderful experiences of academically exciting and rewarding Drama.

We have the expertise to support our A-level students with their Drama school and university applications in both acting and technical courses, with recent leavers going on to RADA, LAMDA, Guildford School of Acting (GSA) and Royal Welsh in acting, costume and stage management courses.

We also offer a variety of workshops with theatre companies and practitioners to develop students' devising and performance skills, as well as their understanding of the profession. We have hosted A-level workshop days on-site for local schools working with companies including Stan's Café, Vamos and Highly Sprung.

We run weekly Drama clinics for our examination students that focus on dramatic theory and the written examination, as well as holding 1:1 sessions so students can receive specific and tailored support. The success of the department is clear, not only on the stage, but also in our excellent results year on year.

Facilities

As a Foundation, we are fortunate to have on-site, state-of-the-art facilities. At King's we have two drama studios with sprung floors and performance lighting and sound, and the black box drama studio also has a professional rig. The King's Hall can also be used as a performance space along with the other Foundation facilities including Warwick Hall (opened in 2016 by Sir Michael Attenborough), seminar and resources base, wardrobe and design room, and the 300 seat Bridge House Theatre built in 2000. We work alongside a professional and creative team of designers, theatre managers and technical staff and there are established links between the school and professional companies who use the theatre, which brings tremendous range to the Foundation's activities. This provides our students with outstanding opportunities and the highest production standards.

Co-curricular Drama

Co-curricular Drama is also extremely popular and successful with many activities across all age ranges, taking place in close collaboration with Warwick School.

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Productions

Every year, the department offers students numerous opportunities to perform including producing three full scale productions staged in either the Bridge House Theatre or Warwick Hall. These are very popular, so casting is done by audition. There are opportunities for actors, crew, hair & makeup as well as leadership roles for older students in directing, choreography and stage management. Recent productions have included:

Junior productions (Summer Term):

Bugsy Malone, Narnia & Oliver!

Middle-school productions

(Spring Term – joint with Warwick School):

Mary Poppins, The Curse of Cranholme Abbey & Gargantua (entered into the National Theatre Connections Festival)

Senior productions

(Autumn Term – joint with Warwick School):

Little Shop of Horrors, A Midsummer Night's Dream & Les Misérables

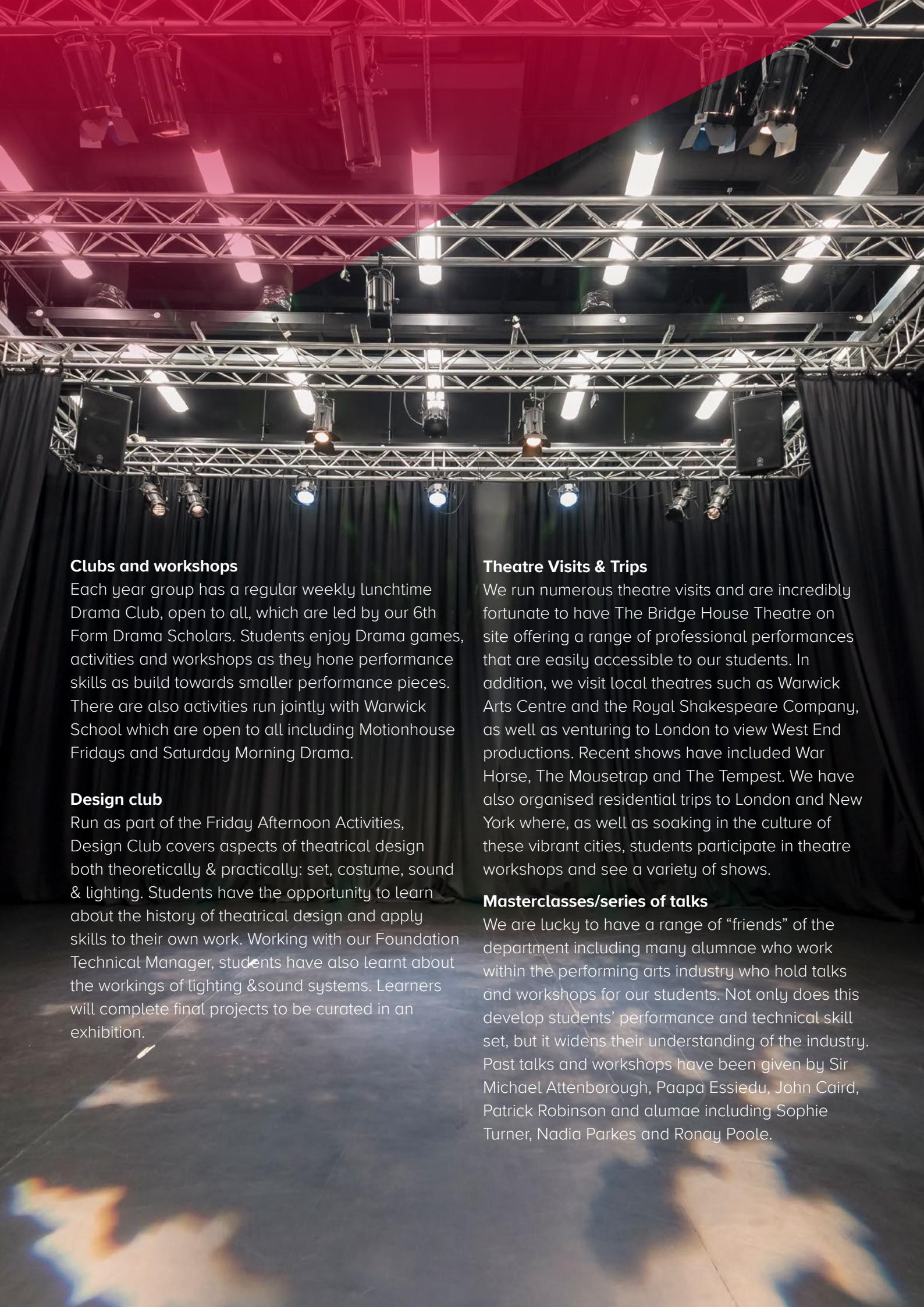
Year 7 Play in a Day and Sixth Form directed plays

There are also opportunities to showcase performances to wider audiences with invited industry specialists.

LAMDA

LAMDA lessons are taught by three specialist LAMDA practitioners offering Acting, Verse & Prose and Public Speaking pathways. LAMDA is hugely popular with over 170 students. Each year, students work towards exams which they take in February and showcase their talents in a LAMDA evening. Results are outstanding: 109 distinctions and 21 merits in 2021.





Clubs and workshops

Each year group has a regular weekly lunchtime Drama Club, open to all, which are led by our 6th Form Drama Scholars. Students enjoy Drama games, activities and workshops as they hone performance skills as build towards smaller performance pieces. There are also activities run jointly with Warwick School which are open to all including Motionhouse Fridays and Saturday Morning Drama.

Design club

Run as part of the Friday Afternoon Activities, Design Club covers aspects of theatrical design both theoretically & practically: set, costume, sound & lighting. Students have the opportunity to learn about the history of theatrical design and apply skills to their own work. Working with our Foundation Technical Manager, students have also learnt about the workings of lighting & sound systems. Learners will complete final projects to be curated in an exhibition.

Theatre Visits & Trips

We run numerous theatre visits and are incredibly fortunate to have The Bridge House Theatre on site offering a range of professional performances that are easily accessible to our students. In addition, we visit local theatres such as Warwick Arts Centre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, as well as venturing to London to view West End productions. Recent shows have included War Horse, The Mousetrap and The Tempest. We have also organised residential trips to London and New York where, as well as soaking in the culture of these vibrant cities, students participate in theatre workshops and see a variety of shows.

Masterclasses/series of talks

We are lucky to have a range of “friends” of the department including many alumnae who work within the performing arts industry who hold talks and workshops for our students. Not only does this develop students’ performance and technical skill set, but it widens their understanding of the industry. Past talks and workshops have been given by Sir Michael Attenborough, Paapa Essiedu, John Caird, Patrick Robinson and alumnae including Sophie Turner, Nadia Parkes and Ronay Poole.