

The Associate Schools Programme



HANDBOOK FOR LEAD TEACHERS 2022-2023

Welcome

Welcome to the Associate Schools Programme (ASP). The aim of the ASP is to offer young people the most engaging and joyful experiences of Shakespeare and live theatre possible, and this can only happen through the rich partnerships we have with schools and theatres that develop over a number of years. We are delighted that your school is a part of the programme as a Lead Associate School, and we look forward to working with you over the coming year.

This handbook contains information to assist you in your role as a Lead Teacher and can be found online at the following website address: www.rsc.org.uk/associateschoolsresources. If you have any questions, please contact us using the contact details at the end of this pack.

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

‘CONNECTED’: Two days in Stratford-upon-Avon for Lead Associate Schools and Regional Theatre Partners

Each year, Lead Teachers from every Lead Associate School, members of our Youth Advisory Board and practitioners from our Associate Regional Theatre Partners come together for two days to explore practice, develop skills and share stories about the impact of the work. Our next ‘Connected’ event will take place on Friday 18 and Saturday 19 November 2022. All catering, accommodation, theatre tickets and travel costs will be covered. Accommodation will be provided on the nights of Thursday 17 and Friday 18 November.

Training in Stratford-upon-Avon for teachers from Associate Schools

On Friday 10 and Saturday 11 March 2023 there will be a CPD opportunity for teachers from your Associate Schools. The cost for this Stratford-based training is £100 and includes the training, accommodation, catering and theatre ticket (but not travel). Places will initially be limited to 4 teachers from your cluster and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. A flyer with all the details will be emailed to you to share with your Associate Schools. Feedback from Associate School teachers who have attended past trainings has been overwhelmingly positive and Lead School teachers often report a greater engagement in their own cluster and a deeper understanding of the national reach of the ASP.

What teachers have said about the Associate Schools training:

A truly incredible experience from start to finish, with the inclusion of accommodation, food and the show, this is 1000% worth its value. Thank you wholly.

Participant

Just THE MOST amazing CPD. I have learned so much, gained so much confidence in my delivery and loved meeting like-minded practitioners from across the country. Thank you!

Participant

We had a Cluster Meeting yesterday at which some of the colleagues who attended the recent Associate Schools residential in SUA fed back on this experience to the rest of us. They shared the notes from the session and talked us through some of the exercises they felt were particularly useful - I am in the process of considering how to support them in delivering some CPD for us to share the training with the rest of our cluster. I just wanted to let you know how positive they were about the entire experience. One commented that they didn't know enough superlatives to explain how brilliant it was!

Lead Associate School teacher

CPD and workshops in your region

Each Lead Associate School will receive two CPD days with an RSC practitioner during the academic year at no cost. These form part of the core activity for your cluster of schools. These days are hosted by the Lead Associate School, the Associate Regional Theatre partner (where relevant) or an Associate School in the cluster. Additional CPD days are available for £400 (full day) or £300 (twilight). If any of your Associate Schools wish to book a CPD day, this will also cost £400 (or £300 for twilight). Please see the information sheet in the appendix with more information about booking and hosting CPD days. Please arrange any CPD at least four weeks ahead of your required date as we are not able to facilitate requests with less than four weeks' notice.

An RSC practitioner can also be booked to run student workshops, actor Q&As, artist in residency weeks and to support your regional festival or sharing event.

Please contact your RSC lead (Ellie or Fiona) to discuss any of the above. Contact details are at the back of this pack.

Advanced CPD

We are aware that most clusters include a mix of very experienced teachers and those new to the work. We want to work with you to ensure that new teachers have a positive introduction to the approaches, while experienced colleagues find the stretch and challenge that enables them to develop their skills. There are a few ways to do this:

- You may choose to have two practitioners leading one of your CPD days. This would enable your teachers to work in two groups and therefore receive a more bespoke training. For example, you could split the groups into new and experienced teachers, different key stages or primary and secondary.
- We are developing a suite of 'intermediate' CPD days for teachers who want to deepen their classroom practice and have completed at least three CPD days with the RSC. This will include courses on rhetoric, deeper exploration of language, writing inspired by Shakespeare and deepening performance / directing skills. We would love to know if your cluster would be interested in piloting one of these courses with us over the next academic year.
- We are currently developing a new course called 'Leading the Teaching of Shakespeare'. This will be a leadership and pedagogy 'train the trainer' programme for teachers who have completed 9 days of CPD with the RSC and who want to progress into leading CPD work with other teachers. It will equip teachers to lead effective CPD with other teachers rooted in inclusive, contemporary RSC pedagogy. Teachers who attend the training receive a 'Leading the Teaching of Shakespeare' certificate. The next 'Leading the Teaching of Shakespeare' course will be held in the spring term 2023. Please let your RSC contact know if you or any teachers from your Associate Schools would be interested in finding out more.

PLAYMAKING

Focus texts and Regional Playmaking Festivals

As many of you will know, 2023 is the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's first folio. This is significant because out of the 36 plays included in the First Folio, 18 had never been published before and without the First Folio, these plays might have been lost forever. Therefore, we'd love for you to focus on one of these 18 plays, for which there is an existing Playmaking Pack. These are:

As You Like It
The Comedy of Errors
Julius Caesar
Macbeth
The Taming of the Shrew
The Tempest

We'll also be adding two new Playmaking Packs for 2022/3 including *Twelfth Night*.

You may choose instead to focus your Playmaking activity for 2023 on the 37 Plays project – performing work written by young people in your region. If you decide to do this, please do let us know.

For more information or support on choosing your play (or plays) text, contact Paul with Ellie or Fiona cc'd (depending on who is your lead contact) paul.ainsworth@rsc.org.uk, ellie.warr@rsc.org.uk and fiona.clayton@rsc.org.uk

Past Playmaking resources can be found at this link:

www.rsc.org.uk/education/associate-schools-programme/associate-schools-resources

For Lead Schools with the RSC as their theatre partner, we will provide a financial contribution to support your regional Playmaking event of up to £750, but the final amount will depend on the scale of your event. You will be able to apply for this support directly from the RSC (see appendix for

form). Please contact Ellie to discuss your Playmaking plans and to apply for financial support.

Where a Lead Associate School works with an Associate Regional Theatre, this money goes directly to the theatre.

National Playmaking Festival

The 2023 National Playmaking Festival in Stratford-upon-Avon will take place on Monday 3 and Tues 4 July (technical rehearsals on the first day and a dress rehearsal / performance on the second). The National Playmaking Festival is open to any cluster of Associate Schools that didn't take part the previous year. Even if your region is not taking part, we would love to see you and your students at the Festival. Please contact Fiona or Ellie to book a complimentary ticket.

Shakespeare Ambassadors

Over the past three years the Shakespeare Ambassadors programme has grown and flourished. During the 2022/23 academic year we have even greater ambitions to embed this work into the Programme and to grow a network of committed and enthusiastic young leaders who will contribute to key aspects of the Programme. For more details about Shakespeare Ambassadors, please contact Freddy Goymer, Young Leaders Programme Developer (contact details at the back of this pack).

Youth Advisory Board

Thirty Shakespeare Ambassadors aged 9-18 from across the Associate Schools network came together for the first time in 2019 to form our Youth Advisory Board (YAB). The YAB continued to meet online during the pandemic and came together in person at our Connected event in November 2021. They are a fantastic, representative voice of the young people across our schools. The YAB consult with RSC staff from different departments and are both supportive and brilliantly challenging of key decisions that are made. Among other projects, members of the YAB

helped to recruit the new Chair of the RSC's Board, Shriti Vadera, and are working with exam boards to advise about decolonising the curriculum.

We are in the process of recruiting 9 new members of the YAB and will update you with the ages and geography of all 30 members in May 2022. More about the Youth Advisory Board and Shakespeare Ambassadors programme can be found here:

www.rsc.org.uk/education/associate-schools-programme/rsc-youth-advisory-board-and-shakespeare-ambassadors

and here

www.rsc.org.uk/news/new-youth-board-members-advise-on-our-response-to-covid-19

The RSC Certificate in Teaching Shakespeare

We will offer 10 reduced-cost places (£200) to Associate School teachers on our Intermediate certificate programme in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Teachers will need to have completed three days of RSC CPD either in their region or in Stratford. The dates of the next training are 14 - 15 October 2022 plus 27 January 2023. More details on the certificate course can be found here: www.rsc.org.uk/education/teacher-professional-development/certificate

NEXT GENERATION

The RSC is committed to developing young talent and opening up career pathways into the professional theatre industry for young people who are underrepresented in the arts. There are three Next Generation projects:

Next Generation Backstage

Each year, we invite young people from our Lead Schools to participate in Next Generation Backstage. Young people aged 16+ who demonstrate a real interest and/or aptitude in a particular area of theatre-making are recruited to gain a practical, hands-on experience of working in a given RSC department, mentored by RSC staff and practitioners. This year the

programme will take place during the week commencing 5 December and we will be in contact with schools to discuss recruitment.

Next Generation Act

This is our company of young actors drawn from across our network of Associate Schools. With 25 young people in the company aged between 13-18, we recruit a small number of new members each year as spaces become available, prioritising areas not currently represented in the existing company. This spring the Next Generation Act company have been performing on the RST stage alongside Shakespeare Nation participants (our adult community project) and a professional cast in *Henry VI: Rebellion*. We will be in touch when we would like to recruit from your region, in order to discuss the best approach.

Next Generation Direct

In 2019 we ran a pilot project with ten young people aged 16-24 from Intermission Youth (London) and Silhouette Youth (Northampton). Over five days the group worked with directors and other industry professionals to explore directing and leadership in the arts. We are currently piloting a new and revised Next Generation Direct programme and will recruit from across the network in 2023.

RESEARCH

In the autumn term 2021 we embarked on a piece of longitudinal research with partners in the Associate Schools Programme. The aim of the research, which is funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, is to assess the impact of the ASP on children's learning, especially language acquisition and young people's attitudes, identity, agency and academic self-concept.

We have set up an expert group which includes professional researchers, head teachers, teachers and theatre practitioners and have recruited two research fellows who will work with school partners to develop qualitative and quantitative measures. This co-designed approach will build

knowledge, insight and research capacity across the whole network and will ultimately help teachers and theatre practitioners reflect with more confidence and rigour on what happens in their classrooms.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Shakespeare Learning Zone

A wealth of resources on fifteen of Shakespeare's most studied plays (two more are added each term) can be found on our Shakespeare Learning Zone www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeare-learning-zone. They include teacher packs, key scenes, pictures from past productions, videos of actors and directors working on and performing the plays, and information about characters and how they relate to each other.

Playmaking resources

Links to past Playmaking Packs (which include edited scripts, director notes and musical scores) can be found on the Associate Schools webpage: www.rsc.org.uk/education/associate-schools-programme/associate-schools-resources

Next Generation Introduces career films

Six short films about different careers in theatre. These include the director; set & costume designer; lighting designer & technician; marketing & press; education practitioner; and digital and are available here: www.rsc.org.uk/education/next-generation/next-generation-introduces

Student workshop films

Half-hour pre-recorded workshops for KS2 pupils which can be accessed on the Associate Schools webpage: www.rsc.org.uk/education/associate-schools-programme/associate-schools-resources (click on OTHER RSC RESOURCES - STUDENT WORKSHOP FILMS). These workshops are on *The Tempest*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Each are led by two practitioners. They are a great introduction to the play, to support classroom activity or preparations for your Playmaking performances. Teachers will need to download the accompanying text extracts and written task for their students.

ADMINISTRATION

Your plan for the 22-23 academic year

You may have already begun thinking about the year ahead and talking to your Associate Schools. As a LAS you will be required to submit a detailed plan of your year's activity, including the names of your Associate Schools. We will support you with this process in the end of year online meeting. A planning template will be sent to you, or you can use one of your own design. We will be asking for your completed plans by the October half-term.

Partnership Agreements

We will send you a Partnership Agreement that details the responsibilities of the Lead Associate School and the RSC. Please read through this and return one copy, signed by your Headteacher, to the RSC.

There is also a template Partnership Agreement for you to use with any new or returning Associate Schools (this is included in the appendix). Please do use this as it clearly sets out the expectations of an Associate School. This agreement is between the Lead Associate School, the regional theatre partner (where relevant) and the Associate School. The RSC does not need copies.

Recruiting new Associate Schools

A number of resources are available to support you in recruiting new Associate Schools to join your cluster:

- A flier with information about the programme
- An Expression of Interest form
- A template partnership agreement – please ensure this is used and signed by each of your Associate School Headteachers

We have emailed these resources to every Lead Associate School, but if you would like them again, please contact Fiona or Ellie.

Each year we will be asking you to update us with your list of Associate Schools. Please do so promptly – this information is vital to us for updating a range of stakeholders.

Logos and banner

All Lead Associate Schools should have received a logo lock-up (which includes the RSC, school and theatre partner logo where relevant). This is for you to use on publicity, your website, letterhead etc. We are also creating new banners which include the Artsmark Alliance logo and will be in contact to find out if you'd like a pop-up banner for your school foyer or an outdoor banner for railings.

Safeguarding policy

The RSC's safeguarding policy is available on our website

cdn2.rsc.org.uk/sitefinity/education-pdfs/safeguarding-policy-feb-2018/rsc-safeguarding-policy-february-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=e9073d21_2

CONTACT DETAILS

RSC Stratford address:

Learning and National Partnerships Department
Royal Shakespeare Company
Waterside
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 6BB

Georgia White (Robin Belfield will be covering Georgia's maternity leave from June 2022).

Head of National Partnerships
georgia.white@rsc.org.uk / robin.belfield@rsc.org.uk
07825 904105

Fiona Clayton
Programme Lead: Associate Schools
fiona.clayton@rsc.org.uk
07919 275701

Ellie Warr
Regional Associate Schools Manager
ellie.warr@rsc.org.uk
07795971383

Paul Ainsworth
Next Generation Programme Developer
paul.ainsworth@rsc.org.uk
07920 500565

Freddy Goymer
Young Leaders Programme Developer
freddy.goymer@rsc.org.uk
07920 500976

Twitter: @RSC_Education

APPENDICES

Partnership Agreement for participation as an Associate School with xxxxxxxxxxxx (name of Lead Associate School), xxxxxxxxxxxx (name of Partner Theatre) and the RSC.

Between:

xxxxxxxxxxx ('the Lead Associate School'), xxxxxxxxxxxx ('the Associate School') and xxxxxxxxxxxx ('the Partner Theatre')

Agreed on xxxx of xxxx [insert year], for the period September [insert year] – July [insert year].

The Associate School agrees to be a partner within the cluster of schools run by the Lead Associate School and the Partner Theatre as part of the 'Associate Schools Programme'.

The Associate School agrees to use its best efforts to fulfil the purpose of the programme, to bring about a significant change in the way that young people experience, engage with, and take ownership of the work of Shakespeare in their school.

Specifically the Associate School will:

- 1.1 identify a lead teacher to act as the main point of liaison and communication and identify additional teachers to be active participants in the programme and to support the lead teacher;
- 1.2 ensure the lead teacher is given sufficient time and capacity, for instance attending cluster meetings and theatre visits, to participate in planning and review and also to undertake organisation of the programme within school;
- 1.3 support the lead teacher, for instance with administrative support, to maintain effective and timely communication with the Lead Associate School, the Partner Theatre and with the RSC where appropriate, and with all matters relating to the management and development of the project;
- 1.4 ensure that teachers involved in the project attend all relevant cpd training days at the Lead Associate School or the Partner Theatre throughout the two years of the project;
- 1.5 commit the required curriculum and discretionary time to participate in any workshops, teacher cpd, sharing events or theatre trips as part of the project on dates and at venues to be agreed;
- 1.6 if needed, release the lead teacher(s) to attend the Playmaking Festival in Stratford-upon-Avon in the summer term;

Financial commitments:

- 2.1 contribute £..... to cover all activity included in the project for one/two years as agreed with the Lead Associate School;
- 2.2 meet any direct costs relating to sharing or Festival events such as travel to the theatre venue, teacher cover costs and other appropriate expenses e.g. basic costumes and props;

Health and Safety and Child Safeguarding:

3.1 ensure the health and safety of students, staff and RSC or Partner Theatre practitioners whilst on the Associate School premises;

3.2 provide photography and filming permissions for students when required and applicable;

3.3 provide a teacher in loco parentis for any project activity with students;

Other:

4.1 provide appropriate space and conditions for practical work in connection with all Associate School programme activity. Such guidance to be provided by the Partner Theatre and the RSC;

4.2 arrange teacher cover when required and meet the related costs;

4.3 support the evaluation and research work of The RSC and Partner Theatre if required;

4.4 make logistical and travel arrangements, e.g. travel to and from the Lead Associate School or the Partner Theatre where necessary;

SIGNED by an authorised signatory

For and on behalf of the Associate School

For and on behalf of the Lead Associate School

Name:

Name:

Title:

Title:

Date:

Date:

For and on behalf of the Partner Theatre (where relevant)

Name:

Title:

Date:

HOSTING YOUR ASSOCIATE SCHOOLS CPD DAY

Each Lead Associate School is able to book two core CPD days at no cost during the academic year. Subject to availability, additional CPD can be booked by a LAS or Associate Schools at a cost of £400. During the 2021/22 academic year, we will continue to offer online CPD sessions. These are 90 minutes long and can be held on Zoom or Teams. Please arrange your CPD days within four weeks of your required date.

Content of the day

After speaking with your RSC contact and agreeing the date, focus of the day and play choice(s), you will be put in contact with an Associate Learning Practitioner (ALP) to discuss the content and any particular requirements needed.

Informing Participants

As well as detailing the date, venue, times and parking arrangements for participants before the day we would suggest that you also include the following:

- A brief outline of the day (this can be provided by the RSC practitioner)
- Advice on appropriate clothing: as the work is practical we recommend that participants wear loose, comfortable clothing and flat, soft-soled shoes.
- The log-in details if the session is to be held online.

The minimum number of participants that we prefer to work with for a day is 12. The maximum we can work with is 28. This may include two or three staff members from your regional theatre partner (where relevant). Please check with the theatre who wishes to attend.

Training Space

- The date and venue for your CPD should be agreed with your theatre partner (where relevant) as well as the RSC.
- RSC training is practical and active and the room where the session is due to take place should be a large empty space with good light. Normally training days take place in a drama studio or school hall and ideally somewhere that is not a thoroughfare for students and staff. We would recommend that the space be no smaller than 10m x 10m (33ft x 33ft) for a group of 15 participants. A bigger space is required for larger groups.
- Sometimes the ALP may require access to a projector and screen, but they will agree this with you in advance.
- It is helpful if any refreshment areas are outside of the training space, although we appreciate that this may not always be possible.

For online sessions it can be most helpful if each participant is on their own screen, but we understand that this isn't always possible, and groups of teachers may need to be in a room together. Please ensure that notes have been sent out in advance and that participants have enough space around them to do some practical work. Your ALP may ask for participants to have paper and pen or other resources to hand and will let you know in advance. Please ask participants to check in advance

that their camera and mic is working. If they have difficulty with this let us know as we may be able to help.

Refreshments

- Catering is to be provided by the venue.
- This should include tea/coffee (available first thing, mid-morning and afternoon break) and lunch.
- Please have water available in the room for participants all day.
- If you are providing catering, we ask that you include the practitioner in the arrangements and check the dietary requirements of all participants.

Structure of the day

Below is the structure for a typical RSC training day:

09.00 - 09.30	Registration period with coffee/tea
09.30 - 11.00	First practical training session
11.00 - 11.15	Break with refreshments
11.15 - 12.45	Second practical training session
12.45 - 13.45	Lunch
13.45 - 15.15	Third practical training session
15.15 - 15.30	Plenary/evaluation completion

Precise timings for your day should be confirmed with your ALP.

Online sessions are 90 minutes in length and usually don't include a break.

Resources

Your ALP will bring all resources required for the day, unless they specify otherwise.

A set of notes, containing all the activities used during the day, will be emailed to participants after the training within two weeks of the training.

Many thanks for organising this CPD for your Associate Schools. Any questions please contact your RSC contact.



**Associate Schools programme
Contribution towards regional festival/performance event
(for Lead Associate Schools for who the RSC is the sole theatre partner)**

Regional Performance Events and Festivals – as part of the Associate Schools programme the RSC will give financial support of up to £750 per year, but the final costs will be negotiated with each Lead Associate School depending on the scale of the project.

Please complete the table below indicating your costs and return it to Ellie Warr, ellie.warr@rsc.org.uk. Once you have heard back from Ellie, please send your invoice to her. Many thanks.

Item/activity	£ school	£ RSC
Artists (director, stage manager etc)		
Venue hire		
Design and costume		
Travel		
Programmes		
Photography/film		
TOTAL		

Please tell us a bit about your event (up to 200 words)

THE ASSOCIATE SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Costs to Lead Associate Schools (LAS)

- **'Connected' event in Stratford-upon-Avon** – as part of their continuing professional development, we will expect Lead Associate Schools to send three teachers to this. There is no cost to the school and the RSC covers the costs of theatre tickets, catering, accommodation and travel. The RSC will also cover the cost of any Youth Advisory Board members.
- **Teacher CPD in the regions** – each LAS is expected to book two in-person cpd at no cost throughout the academic year. Any additional cpd can be arranged at a cost of £400. Associate Schools can also book cpd at £400.
- **Twilight INSET in the regions** – cpd can be arranged at a cost of £300.
- **Option** of workshops in school with an RSC artist at £250 per day.
- **Annual Playmaking Packs** at no cost to the school.
- **Regional Performance Events and Festivals for schools with RSC as theatre partner** – we will give financial support of up to £750 per year, but the final costs will be negotiated with each Lead Associate School depending on the scale of the project. In areas with a partner theatre, the contribution will be paid directly to the theatre.
- **Festival technical/dress rehearsal support** - £250 per day
- **Workshops to support performance in region or coming to the Playmaking Festival** - £250 per day.
- **Playmaking Festival in Stratford-upon-Avon** – an annual festival in Stratford each summer.

YOU MIGHT LIKE TO READ:

Berry, Cicely (1991) *Voice and the Actor*, Jossey Bass

Doran, Greg (2009) *The Shakespeare Almanac*, London, Hutchinson

Gibson, Rex (1998) *Teaching Shakespeare: a handbook for teachers*, Cambridge University Press

Gibson, Rex (2000) *Stepping into Shakespeare: Practical ways of teaching Shakespeare*, Cambridge University Press

Leith, Sam (2011) *You Talkin' To Me? Rhetoric from Aristotle to Obama*, London, Profile Books

Rodenburg, Patsy (2004) *Speaking Shakespeare*, Methuen Drama

Royal Shakespeare Company (2014) *The RSC Shakespeare Toolkit for Teachers*, London: Methuen Drama

Shapiro, James (2006) *1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare*, London, Faber and Faber

Shapiro, James (2016) *1606: Shakespeare and the Year of Lear*, London, Faber and Faber

Stredder James (2009) *The North Face of Shakespeare: Activities for Teaching the Plays* (Cambridge School Shakespeare) Cambridge University Press

Winston J (2015) *Transforming the Teaching of Shakespeare with the Royal Shakespeare Company*, Arden Shakespeare

Winston, Joe and Tandy, Miles (2012) *Beginning Shakespeare 4-11*, London: David Fulton

Winston, J. (2012) 'Play is the thing!: Shakespeare, language, play and drama pedagogy in the early years', *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, 47(2), pp. 1–15