

Composite: Physical Theatre: 'Alice in Wonderland'

Year 8

This half term, our Year 8 students will step into the imaginative and surreal world of *Alice in Wonderland*, creating their own performances inspired by the story's mythical creatures and its Non-Naturalistic theatrical style. Students will explore abstract and exaggerated characters, learning how to use vocal and physical skills to bring these unusual personalities to life on stage.

As part of the unit, students will also develop their Physical Theatre skills, learning techniques such as Round, By, Through, inspired by the renowned theatre company *Frantic Assembly*. They will work with scripted scenes, experiment with staging, and take on directing responsibilities within their groups, shaping original interpretations of key moments from the text.

This topic supports students to **belong**, as they collaborate closely, share ideas, and build trust within their ensemble. It encourages them to **thrive** by taking creative risks, developing new performance techniques, and challenging themselves within a supportive environment. Finally, students will **achieve** by creating polished performance work that demonstrates growing confidence, creativity, and technical understanding.

Through this engaging and imaginative unit, Year 8 students will strengthen their performance skills and deepen their understanding of theatre-making as they begin the new academic year.

Performing Arts: *Teaching our students to be confident, creative and collaborative Performers.*

Composite: Musical Theatre: 'Shrek!'

Year 8

This half term, our Year 8 students will dive into the lively and humorous world of Musical Theatre by exploring *Shrek the Musical*. Through this unit, students will develop their performance skills across the three core disciplines of Musical Theatre: singing, dancing, and acting.

Working collaboratively, students will build a strong sense of **belonging** as they rehearse scenes, songs, and choreography together, supporting one another as part of an ensemble. As they experiment with vocal work, movement, and characterisation, students will be encouraged to take creative risks and express themselves with confidence, enabling them to **thrive** in a positive and engaging learning environment.

The unit will culminate in students demonstrating their ability to combine all three disciplines in performance, showcasing their developing skills and understanding of the Musical Theatre genre. Through this process, students will **achieve** by applying their learning in a polished and purposeful way, building a strong foundation for future performance work.

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Composite: Page to Stage

Year 8

This half term, our Year 8 students will experience what it is like to follow the professional process of taking a performance from the script all the way to the stage. Stepping into the roles of directors and producers, students will explore a variety of scripts, including *The Lion*, *the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Wyrd Sisters*, and *Blood Brothers*.

Working in collaborative groups, students will develop a strong sense of **belonging** as they make creative decisions together about staging, characterisation, vocal delivery, and movement. They will draw on the performance skills they have developed throughout Year 7 and Year 8, learning how to interpret text and bring scenes to life with confidence.

As they experiment with design choices such as lighting and props, students will be encouraged to take creative risks and express their ideas freely, enabling them to **thrive** in a supportive, practical learning environment. The unit will culminate in a final performance for the rest of the class, where groups will showcase their directorial choices and performance work.

This topic gives students the opportunity to **achieve** by completing the full creative journey from page to performance, strengthening their teamwork, communication, and understanding of how theatre is made.

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Composite: Dance Culture

Year 8

This half term, our Year 8 students will be putting on their dancing shoes as they explore a range of cultural dance styles from around the world. Students will be introduced to the powerful rhythms and grounded movements of African dance, as well as the vibrant flair and musicality of Latin American styles.

Throughout this unit, students will work collaboratively, building a strong sense of **belonging** as they develop routines together and support one another in rehearsals. They will be encouraged to experiment with new movement vocabulary and embody the stylistic qualities of each dance tradition, allowing them to **thrive** creatively and physically in a positive learning environment. Students will be challenged to perform with confidence, energy, and expression, incorporating cultural influences into their choreography and performance work. By the end of the topic, they will **achieve** by showcasing their understanding of these dance styles through polished group performances that demonstrate skill, teamwork, and artistic growth.

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Composite: Theatre Review: 'Wonder.land' National Theatre Production

Year 8

This half term, our Year 8 students will deepen their understanding of live theatre by watching a professional recording of the National Theatre's production of '*Wonder.land*'. As accessing live performances isn't always possible, we will be bringing the theatre experience directly to Wingfield Academy.

Wonder.land explores important PSHE themes, including identity, self-esteem, online behaviour, managing emotions, and the need to feel a sense of **belonging**. As students watch the performance, they will consider how the characters navigate challenges in both real and digital spaces, prompting thoughtful discussions about wellbeing, resilience, and healthy online relationships.

Students will analyse key elements of the production—such as storyline, character development, costume, props, scenery, and staging—as well as technical aspects like lighting design. They will evaluate how these creative choices support the themes of the play and enhance the audience's experience.

This unit supports students to **belong** as they share ideas, discuss themes, and reflect on how the story relates to their own lives. It enables them to **thrive** by developing independence, critical thinking, and evaluative skills with less scaffolding than in Year 7. Finally, students will **achieve** by producing a structured theatre review that demonstrates their understanding of both performance and production elements.

Through this topic, students will strengthen their appreciation of professional theatre while building key analytical and personal development skills.

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Composite: Shakespeare: Stage Combat

Year 8

This half term, Year 8 students will take part in an energetic Stage Combat unit, learning how actors safely create realistic fight scenes on stage. Working collaboratively helps students **belong**, as they support one another in rehearsing moves such as slaps, punches and reactions while maintaining control and safety at all times.

Students develop key performance skills—including vocal expression, movement, characterisation and creating dramatic tension—which allow them to **thrive** as confident and creative performers. Throughout the unit, they script and rehearse their own conflict scenes, applying professional-style techniques to bring their work to life.

The topic concludes with a final performance where students **achieve** by showcasing their combat skills, teamwork and ability to perform convincingly to an audience.

This hands-on unit builds confidence, communication and discipline, giving students a unique insight into how action scenes are created in theatre.

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