



# THRIVE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## *Drama & Music Department*



It's only March and the Performing Arts Department has already had a fantastic start to the academic year! In December the Music Department held performances at Wells Cathedral and the Baptist Church for our annual concerts, bringing festive spirit in the lead-up to Christmas, and the magic continued in February when our students wowed audiences with their brilliant performance of the Frozen Jr musical. We have also attended a range of exciting workshops in and out of school, as part of the Elevate programme in collaboration with Octagon Theatre and Westlands Entertainment Venue, including a concert with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, GCSE Drama sessions with the Emma Rice Theatre Company, a Year 9 career afternoon at Westlands and a KS3 musical theatre dance workshop.

### **Frozen Jr**

I found it really inspiring and when I go to Crispin I want to take part in the show too -  
Lucy Year 6

This February, our school production of Frozen Jr was an unforgettable highlight of the Performing Arts calendar. A huge undertaking, it demanded months of commitment, creativity, and teamwork from staff and students, and the result was nothing short of spectacular. It even snowed on stage!

We were thrilled to welcome students from local primary schools for a special preview performance, which was a fantastic way to inspire the next generation of performers joining us in September.

Our evening performances played to a packed house each night, with enthusiastic, supportive audiences made up of families, friends, staff, and members of the wider community. We cannot wait for next year - keep a look out for updates!



## Elevate Programme

**OCTAGON**  
THEATRE  
YEOVIL

**WESTLANDS**  
YEOVIL

Last academic year we applied for a place in the 'Elevate' programme in collaboration Octagon Theatre and Westlands, an exciting and incredible opportunity for our school.

This programme connects our students with professional theatre companies and musicians from across the UK, in a number of different disciplines.

The aim is to inspire creativity, build confidence, and raise aspirations. It also supports our staff with specialist training.

So far, our students have had some really exciting experiences, including workshops with practitioners from the Emma Rice Company (founded by award winning director Emma Rice), an inspiring creative careers day working at Westlands with professional theatre technicians, and a live music experience with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Mrs Baumgardt even had the opportunity to train in set design with the Royal Opera House and Ballet!

These opportunities are designed to help students explore their creativity, gain real insight into the industry, and build the confidence to see a place for themselves within it. We feel incredibly grateful to be part of this programme and look forward to continuing the journey.

## Emma Rice Company Workshop

Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Drama students recently took part in two days of practical workshops led by professional practitioners who work with award-winning director Emma Rice and her theatre company. Students worked with actor and practitioner Katy Owen, who previously performed as Puck at Shakespeare's Globe. Across the two sessions, students explored storytelling and devising techniques inspired by the company's recent production of *Mallory Towers*.

The workshops introduced students to a range of theatre-making skills including improvisation, singing, storytelling through movement and ensemble performance. The sessions challenged students to stretch their performance skills, develop character work and experiment with new approaches to creating theatre. It was an inspiring experience that gave students valuable insight into professional rehearsal processes while building confidence, creativity and collaboration.





## Festival of Song

At the start of this month we were invited to participate in the Festival of Song at Westlands, where choirs and theatre groups from across the county came together for an evening of fantastic music and popular songs. The event celebrated the wide range of choirs in the region, from school groups to those pursuing careers in the performing arts, as well as those who simply sing for enjoyment.

We were proud to perform a medley featuring the songs from our musical Frozen Jr, sung by some of our main cast from the show.

Our students did an amazing job and made us incredibly proud. This weekend we are also taking this performance to Wedmore for 'Clash of the Choirs!'

## Theatre Career Day

A small group of our Drama Ambassadors recently took part in an exciting careers afternoon at Westlands Entertainment Centre.

Students spent the afternoon working in a professional performance venue, where they participated in two practical workshops led by industry specialists. They were able to explore a range of theatre career pathways, including producing, stage management, directing, lighting, sound, and acting.

They worked in collaboration as a team to produce a piece based on a script, and worked together to decide on the action and technical elements.

When it was time to perform, members from each team were selected to operate the technical elements to support the performance. We had students in charge of the lighting and sound desks, the smoke machine and working as a stage manager cueing the show.



## Musical Theatre Dance Masterclass

This week some KS3 students enjoyed a musical theatre dance masterclass with Darcy Berkley from Westlands as part of the Elevate programme. They explored a range of dance skills and had the exciting opportunity to learn choreography for a song from a brand new musical 'Two Strangers (Carry a Cake Across New York)', building confidence and developing their performance skills along the way.



## Upcoming

This half term we have some exciting trips coming up, Year 10 & 11 GCSE Drama students will be heading to London to see Operation Mincement.

GCSE Music students are spending an evening at the Bristol Beacon to watch the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform John Williams: Blockbusters, and Year 9 Drama Ambassadors have been invited to The SPACE to watch Animal Farm performed by their Year 2 students.

More exciting opportunities are still to come, including additional workshop experiences for KS3 students later this year.

**COMING SOON**

And of course the much anticipated show reveal for 2027! Could the rumours be true?



# Disney FROZEN JR.

