



**EDUCATION AT
THE OCTAGON
THEATRE**

1 OUR OFFER

The Octagon was one of the first theatres in the country to have an education department. Working with young people is in our DNA and it still remains the Octagon's primary commitment.

It is our ambition to ensure every young person in Bolton has the opportunity to access theatre.

We believe that all young people should have the opportunity to **SEE** great theatre, to **SHARE** brilliant creative experiences and to **CONNECT** with industry professionals and artists.

As a producing theatre, we can offer expertise and unique experiences that expand your students' horizons and give them an insight into how we make great shows.

We want young people to feel inspired and excited about the work we do, and we want to support schools to continue the great work they are doing.

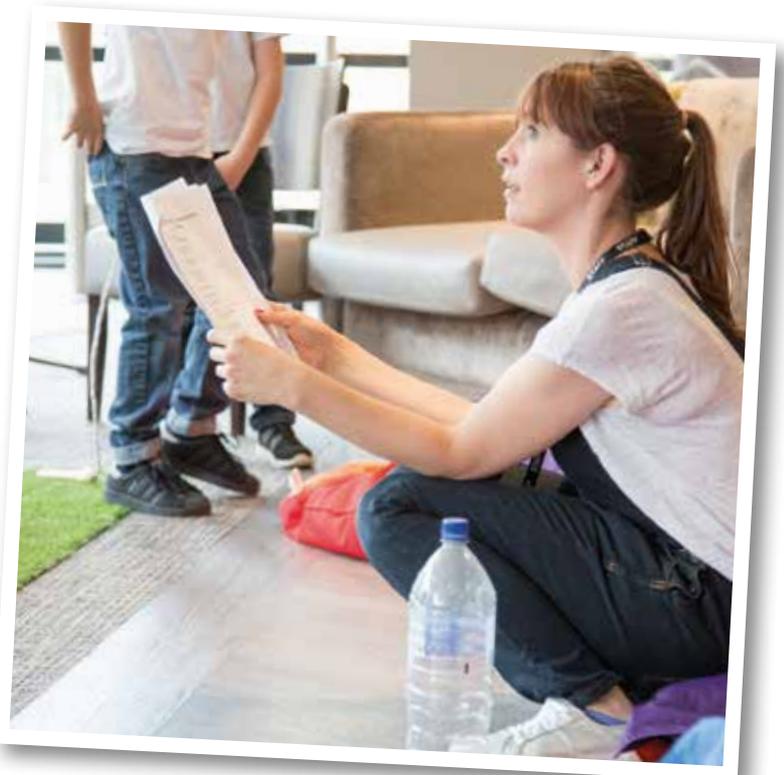


Image credit: Bolton Camera Club

By working with your school we can:

- Support you in offering a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Enable your students to develop deeper knowledge in Drama, English and History.
- Stimulate original thinking to promote confident self-expression in areas of literacy, such as creative writing.
- Contribute to pupils' understanding of the world, and help them gain cultural capital.
- Offer Arts Awards Qualifications for your students.
- Support you to become an Artsmark School.

Contact us

This booklet is designed to give you an insight into the breadth of our Education offer. In addition, we develop bespoke workshops and partnerships with schools. We'd love to hear from you to discuss how we can work with your school.

Email us on participation@octagonbolton.co.uk or phone **01204 556501** and chat to one of our Education team.

2 SEE

As a producing theatre, we want to offer young people the experience of seeing work live. The stories we tell on stage are at the heart of what we do.

Each season we offer unique workshop experiences connected to our latest productions. These workshops can stand alone but are perfect if you are planning a visit to see the show too.



Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, new adaptation by Janys Chambers. Bolton School, 2018

This Season...

WORKSHOP OFFER: £80.00 for a 2 hour workshop with any group booking of 20 students or more for one of the shows below.

The price without show tickets is £150.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Mistaken identity, scandal, romance and a handbag! Oscar Wilde's sensational and lavish comedy is brought to life at Bolton's Albert Halls. A Victorian satire on social obligations, *The Importance of Being Earnest* is heralded as one of the funniest plays ever written and has delighted audiences for over 100 years.

Our workshop, suitable for Key Stages 3-5, gives students a deeper understanding of the themes within the play.

Show dates: Thu 6 – Sat 15 June 2019

TREASURE ISLAND

The classic tale of buccaneers and buried gold will be sailing into Bolton this Christmas in a rip-roaring new stage adaptation of *Treasure Island*. A fearsomely talented cast of actor-musicians will help us set sail on our jolly way in a fun-filled family adventure bursting with music, mutiny and talking parrots!

Our workshop, suitable for all Key Stages, is an adventure on the high seas.

Show dates: Sun 8 – Fri 27 Dec 2019

Teachers Go Wilde Night

If you're a teacher in the Bolton area, we have a very special treat for you! On Monday 10 June you can get two FREE tickets* to *The Importance of Being Earnest*, simply by emailing participation@octagonbolton.co.uk, and telling us your name, school and job title. Our Creative Engagement team will be around pre-show to say hello and answer any questions you have about our Education work.

*limited availability

3 SHARE

Our SHARE strand means we can work with your school in the way that works for you, giving students the opportunity to explore theatre as performers, and share their successes with peers, colleagues, friends and family.

Play in a Day

Our Play in a Day workshops offer young people the opportunity to experience a rehearsal and performance process, all in one day! Working with an Education Practitioner from the Octagon, we'll create something with your class to be showcased back at school, or in our participation space in Bolton.

Great for assemblies or end of term celebrations.

Key Stages: 1-3

Cost: £250.

Duration and capacity: Full day. Maximum of 30 students.

Discover in a Day

Work with the Octagon for a day to get every single member of your class an Arts Award! Arts Awards can be adapted for any subject or topic e.g. The Egyptians, The Stone Age or the book your class is reading. Arts Awards are nationally recognised qualifications and they are a great way for students to take pride in their learning. Every student participating will receive a certificate.

Great for enrichment days or for starting a new topic in an exciting way.

Key Stages: 1-3

Cost: £300.00, inclusive of moderation and Arts Award certificate costs.

Duration and capacity: Full day. Maximum of 30 students.



Hamlet by William Shakespeare. Octagon Theatre and University of Bolton, 2018

Start Up Your Shakespeare

The Octagon has a long and proud history of producing exciting Shakespeare productions, from *Hamlet* to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We know that the first moments your class spends with a new Shakespeare text can be daunting. We will work with your class to 'start up' your Shakespeare scheme of work, exploring text and story in a practical and exciting way, and bringing our rehearsal room expertise into your classroom. Our experienced Education Practitioners can adapt to any syllabus.

We offer workshops focused on *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Tempest*, *Hamlet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Key Stages: 1-5

Cost: £150.00 (half day), £250 (full day)

Duration and capacity: Our half day workshops are 2x 1.5 hour workshops or 1x 3 hour workshop. Our full day can include workshops for up to 4 classes. Maximum 30 students per class.

Devising Masterclass

Creating original and exciting theatre with young people is something that comes naturally to us here at the Octagon. Our experienced creatives can work with GCSE, BTEC and A Level groups to generate ideas, share processes and pass on useful devising tools to your students. We can adapt to any syllabus.

Key Stages: 3-5

Cost: £150.00 (half day), £250 (full day)

Duration and capacity: Half or full day. Maximum 30 students per class.

4 CONNECT

Our CONNECT strand is a fantastic opportunity to explore what happens backstage and deepen students' understanding of theatre and theatre careers.

Backstage Pass

A practical and interactive workshop that explores how we make work from the perspective of all our theatre staff – technical, marketing and production. An accessible way to show young people that the Creative Industries are about much more than treading the boards!

Key Stage: 3-5

Cost: £150

Duration and capacity: Half Day. Maximum 30 students.

Backstage Tours

Be one of the first groups to tour our brand new building in Spring 2020 and see how we make our shows! Add Arts Award Discover to your tour and all students will receive a certificate.

Key Stage: 2-5

Duration: 1 hour (tour only), 2 hours (including Arts Award Discover)

Cost: £6.00 per pupil including an Arts Award OR £60.00 per group (without Arts Award)

Octagon in Residence

We love it when schools come and visit us and create with us in our space, but we're happy to visit you too! An Octagon residency at your school can take the form of an After School Drama Club, running over a six week half term, or we can work in your school to help direct your end of term performance or Christmas show.

Octagon in Residence is a brilliant way for you to develop a partnership with us, and for young people to gain a deeper understanding of theatre and theatre making.

To discuss an Octagon in Residence experience for your school, please contact participation@octagonbolton.co.uk or call **01204 556501**.

CPD for Teachers and Education Professionals

As an Arts Council funded organisation, we are committed to empowering teachers as artists and enabling them to flourish as professionals. We run CPD sessions throughout the year to give teachers the chance to work with creatives from the Octagon.

All Hands on Deck: Building an ensemble with young actors

Inspired by our upcoming festive show, *Treasure Island*, we'll explore how to work meaningfully with large numbers of actors, for class performances and school productions.

CPD for: English and Drama teachers working with Key Stages 1-3

Date: Monday 24th June 2019

Time: 4.30pm-6pm

Cost: FREE

To book your place email participation@octagonbolton.co.uk

Not Dead Yet: Bringing a Classic text to life

Meet our Artistic Director Lotte Wakeham and, with our Creative Engagement Manager Imogen Woolrich, find out how we work with actors to enliven a classic text. We'll explore how modern adaptations and fresh perspectives can enable students to really get to grips with pieces from the canon.

CPD for: English and Drama teachers working with Key Stages 3-5

Date: Thursday 12 September 2019

Time: 4.30pm-6.00pm

Cost: FREE

To book your place email participation@octagonbolton.co.uk

5 ARTSMARK

Artsmark is the Arts Council's flagship programme where schools gain a kitemark to show their commitment to the arts.

For more information visit:
www.artsmark.org.uk

The Octagon is here to support schools on their Artsmark journey, at any stage of the process.

We're experienced in working with Silver, Gold and Platinum schools. All aspects of our offers can be used to evidence progress through Artsmark. If you're looking to start your Artsmark journey we can offer practical support in terms of our range of offer below, or we can offer bespoke support. To discuss Artsmark, please contact participation@octagonbolton.co.uk.

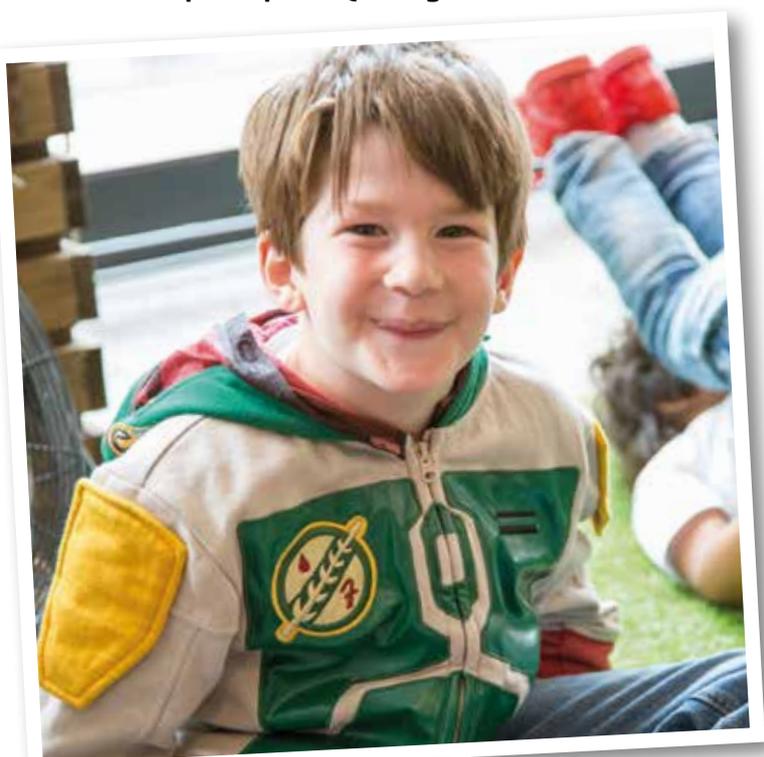


Image credit: Bolton Camera Club

Artsmark Priorities

When you embark upon your Artsmark journey, you'll most likely be focusing on particular areas that will become priorities for your school in terms of achieving your goals. Our Education offer is designed to work with Artsmark priorities. We have outlined this below:

VALUES AND ETHOS

Our **CONNECT** offer helps schools demonstrate that they are helping young people apply their arts learning in a wider context. Backstage Tours enable students to see just how many jobs, skills and different art forms go into making a show. Backstage Pass Workshops mean that students start to understand in depth the breadth of career options in theatre.

LEADERSHIP

The Octagon can work with senior leaders and governors to support the strategic vision of your school, by creating bespoke packages that will help you achieve the intentions you set out in your Statement of Commitment.

CYP ENGAGEMENT

- Play in a Day is a great way to showcase students' work and raise the profile of the arts in school by inviting families to see the performance.
- The Octagon CPD programme enables teachers to work with professionals and artists who are creating professional shows at the Octagon.
- Arts Awards, particularly at the higher levels, allow CYP to input into their own learning and take on leadership responsibilities.

CURRICULUM DESIGN

- Start Up your Shakespeare demonstrates your work to embed the arts in core areas of the curriculum such as English.
- Discover in a Day sessions can be adapted to almost any area of the curriculum, or topic, and help bring a vibrancy to Curriculum Design ambitions.

6 ARTSMARK



A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, adapted by Neil Duffield.
Octagon Theatre, 2017

RANGE OF OFFER

As one of the key partners in the Bolton Cultural Education Partnership, we work closely with Bolton Music Service, Bolton LMS and many of Bolton's cultural partners. We're only too happy to support schools in brokering relationships with other organisations as part of their Artsmark journey.

CPD

The Octagon is passionate about lifelong learning for teachers and professionals. We run regular CPD sessions for teachers and education professionals (see [page 4](#)). We can also run a CPD session in your school – for enquiries email participation@octagonbolton.co.uk or call **01204 556501**.

PARTNERSHIPS

We offer 10% off our workshop prices for all schools who are registered with Artsmark. If you're hoping to develop a partnership with an arts organisation as part of your journey, we can work with you to create a bespoke package. Artsmark schools can look at accessing at least one point in each of our Education strands: **SEE**, **SHARE** and **CONNECT**. This can be over the course of an academic year or longer, and will include Statement of Commitment support to write your plan.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

We're committed to working with schools who serve CYP from all backgrounds, and we're always happy to have a conversation about how we might adapt our offer to suit your school.

7 CONTACT US

To book any of our workshops or to discuss a bespoke offer email participation@octagonbolton.co.uk or phone 01204 556501 and chat to one of our Education team.

The students enjoyed the sessions. The staff were enthusiastic and captured their attention. Students have been talking about the sessions since we returned to school and the day has created a genuine buzz. It was a real treat to work with such a great theatre.

L Mitchell, Teacher at Bedford High School

The workshop was a great success, the Drama students learnt new skills such as the Soundscape and enjoyed a lot of the in role mini performance work. I would highly recommend Imogen who was very professional and a joy to facilitate alongside.

Drama Teacher, Rivington and Blackrod High School