



Building Your Performing Shakespeare Team

Performing Shakespeare helps students build confidence, creativity and communication through performance. Whether they're seasoned actors or complete beginners, there are many simple ways to inspire students to get involved. Here are a few ideas to help you recruit your team.

1. Raise Awareness

Not every student will volunteer, so promote the opportunity widely.

- Introduce the competition in a school assembly or during form time.
- Share the livestream/photos from the previous year's grand finals.
- Advertise through tutor notices, school newsletters and social media.

2. Look Beyond Your Drama Students

Great performers aren't always the students who put their hand up first.

Ask colleagues to nominate students who show:

- Creativity and imagination
- Confidence (or growing confidence)
- Strong communication skills
- Commitment and teamwork
- An interest in English, Drama or Literature

Remember: Some of the strongest performers are students who simply need someone to encourage them.

3. Run a Fun Taster Session

Help students experience Shakespeare before asking them to commit.

Try activities such as:

- Performing famous speeches with different emotions
- Reading scenes in pairs
- Freeze-frame or tableau challenges
- Shakespeare charades or improv games
- Modern translations followed by performance

Keep it informal and focused on enjoyment rather than perfection. Additional resources can be found here:
<https://www.esu.org/resources/>

4. Celebrate the Journey

Make participation visible throughout the school.

- Share rehearsal photos in newsletters or on social media.
- Celebrate performances in assemblies.
- Display certificates and competition photos.
- Invite students to perform at school events or open evenings.
- Encourage previous competitors to talk about their experience.

Why Take Part?

Performing Shakespeare helps students develop:

- ✓ Confidence and resilience
- ✓ Communication and presentation skills
- ✓ Creativity and interpretation
- ✓ Teamwork and collaboration
- ✓ A deeper appreciation of Shakespeare's work
- ✓ Skills that support English, Drama and future interviews

Top Tip: Don't just recruit actors—recruit storytellers.

Students don't need previous acting experience to succeed. A personal invitation from a teacher is often all it takes to inspire someone to discover a new passion and grow in confidence.