

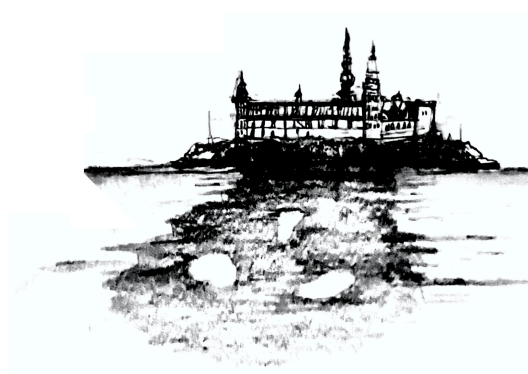


NEW VIC



"THE READINESS IS ALL"

Hamlet



New Vic Theatre Children's Shakespeare Festivals 2026
Performances at 2.30pm on Tuesday 10th March, Wednesday 18th March, and Thursday 19th March 2026

Festival Director	Sue Harding	07926 356826 susie23harding@live.co.uk
Creative Producer	Matt Wardle	07890 724 917 matt@northwestdramaservices.co.uk

INFORMATION PACK 1

General Information

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New Vic Theatre Children's Shakespeare Festival 2026

PERFORMANCE GROUPS – (provisional)

New Vic CSF 1 – Tuesday 10th March

Alsagers Bank Primary Academy (1 class)
Ash Green Primary Academy (1 class)
Ellison Primary Academy (1 class)
Gladstone Primary Academy (1 class)
Goldenhill Primary Academy (1 class)
Summerbank Primary Academy (1 class)

New Vic CSF 2 – Wednesday 18th March

Burnwood Primary Academy (1 class)
Carmountside Primary Academy (1 class)
Ellison Primary Academy (1 class)
Gladstone Primary Academy (1 class)
Summerbank Primary Academy (1 class)
Hale Preparatory School (1 class)

New Vic CSF 3 – Thursday 19th March

Ash Green Primary Academy (1 class)
Ball Green Primary School (1 class)
Westwood First School, Leek (2 classes)
The William Amory Primary School (1 class)
Pear Tree Primary School (1 class)

The Three Phases of the New Vic Theatre Children's Shakespeare Festival 2026

Exploration phase:

- **26-hour Residential:** You experience the scheme of work and plan how it will work in your school
- **Launch workshop:** Sue comes into school for a 90 minute workshop to launch the exploration with each class before you begin the scheme of work
- **Scheme of Work:** You and your class explore the play through our scheme of work!

Devising and rehearsal phase:

- **Focus:** Sue gives you a performance focus area - the area of the story we would like you to focus on for your own performance piece
- **Gather and devise:** You begin to focus on this area and gather your material / devising to create a script. A **midpoint meeting** will help you and offer creative support and technical advice.
- **Directorial visit:** Sue visits your class to watch your piece and offer any advice/ directorial tips required.

Performance phase:

- **Technical Zoom Meeting:** Prior to your performance, you will have a technical Zoom meeting with Sue, and the technical team from the New Vic Theatre to finalise lighting, sound and music.
- **Technical Rehearsal:** On the day of your performance, your class will have a time slot to rehearse your performance piece with music, sound and lighting on stage at the New Vic Theatre. We will then do a dress rehearsal of the entire performance before our final performance in the afternoon.
- **Performance:** On your performance day (either Tuesday 10th March, Wednesday 18th March, or Thursday 19th March) at 2:30pm, your class performs their piece at the New Vic Theatre as part of the 6 group Festival!

Project Timeline

Events with additional notes on page 4 are marked with a *

October to December - Exploration Phase

October 13/14, 2025: 26-hour Residential* at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 8RH. Work from 1pm on 13th October until 3pm on 14th October. Immersion in the full scheme of work on *Hamlet*.

Oct/Nov: Planning for implementation of the scheme of work in your own classrooms

Nov: Launch workshop in school. Sue will deliver an introductory workshop with participating pupils to launch the project.

After the Launch Workshop: Teachers deliver the scheme of work - this will be made available to you following the residential.

Mid Dec until end Feb - Devising and Rehearsal Phase

Mid Dec Your Performance Focus*. Sue will notify teachers of their area of focus for their performance piece. You will also receive a letter to the class for teachers to open with children at a time of your choice

Wed 17th Dec 3:30pm – 6pm: After School mid-point meeting at The New Vic Theatre*. We will inform you about how the final performance will work, and we will look at the next stage of the process: focus areas, devising, scripts, lighting and sound. Sue will explain about the **CSF Consent Forms*** and **Programme information Form***. We will also send out ticket information around this time so that schools can organise tickets for extra classes of pupils, families, and VIPs to see the performances if this the form our final sharing will take.

Jan – end Feb: Devising and Rehearsing. Teachers and pupils develop a 10-minute piece based upon their performance focus area. The piece is developed and rehearsed throughout Feb and into March

End of Feb - March - Performance Phase

Mid-end Feb: Director Visit* 1.5 hours director visit from Sue. A chance for her to see your class performance, rehearse, discuss 'performance skills' and give any support as required.

End Feb/early March (date and time tbc): Technical Script Zoom meeting with Sue and the New Vic Theatre technical team to finalise technical aspects (lighting, sound, and music) of scripts for performance. Scripts to be completed for this meeting.

Tuesday 10th March, Wednesday 18th March, or Thursday 19th March at 2.30pm: Performance Day Teachers and classes arrive for their technical rehearsal as soon as possible after 9am, before a whole company dress rehearsal and our performance. We will confirm times etc as soon as we can. The day concludes at approximately 3:45pm.

Teachers complete a short **online evaluation**, to give us your feedback.

Additional information on the Project Timeline

Residential

Please see the next page for more information about how we will be delivering our residential element.

Midpoint Meeting at the theatre

An important meeting at the New Vic Theatre where you will find out more about how the performance phase works. This year, we'd like to offer you more support with devising, so we'll be starting the meeting at 3:30pm, when we will explore some of the ways you might devise your piece with your class. We will email you Information Pack 2 (Performance Phase) in advance of this meeting.

CSF Consent Form & Collated Consent Form

Depending on your school's Data Protection policy and in line with GDPR, we require you to confirm that you have consent for photography, pupil's names being printed in the performance programme and other data uses. We recommend sending this out as early as possible and a copy is available from the HAMLET resource page. Schools can either use their own data sharing policy or seek fresh consent using the CSF Consent form on the Resource Page. Whichever way you choose to get consent, we require you to complete the Collated Consent Form which confirms you have consent for your pupils but also indicates consent for yourselves. Please complete one Collated Consent Form per class and send it to your festival director at your earliest convenience. See the next page for more information on this. Please see Page 7 for more information.

Programme Information Form

Please complete the Programme Information Form and send it to your festival director at your earliest convenience (you can always add extra names later!). You will need to have completed your CSF Collated Consent Form to do this, as you will be sharing personal data with us. Please see Page 7 for more information.

Your Performance Focus

You will receive a letter for your class, giving you a performance 'focus'. In addition to this letter, you will be given a 'Performance Focus' document, which gives you an overview of the other focus areas and gives teachers more information and suggestions for devising.

Director Visit

Sue will visit your class at school prior to the performance, to see your piece, lead a rehearsal, and support you with preparation for the performance day. Please remember to learn the song, finale speech, and jig from the scheme of work with your classes.

Technical Script Zoom Meeting

At this crucial Zoom meeting with Sue and the technical team from The New Vic Theatre, you will work from your technical script to present a detailed account of your piece and how it will work on the stage using the lighting and sound palettes in Information Pack 3 (Technical information). You will have created a 'technical script' using the template provided, so that it can be easily understood by the Stage Manager and the technical team. We will talk about this more at the midpoint meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Sue (festival director) susie23harding@live.co.uk or Matt (producer) matt@northwestdramaservices.co.uk

26-hour Residential 2025

General Information for Attendees

Monday 13th October 1pm – Tuesday 14th October 3pm

Where?

The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 8RH

Website: www.thenightingalecentre.org.uk

Directions by car: Great Hucklow is situated just off the B6049, north of the A623 (Stockport to Chesterfield road), near Tideswell. From Chesterfield take the A619. From Manchester and Stockport take the A6. From Sheffield take the A625. For Sat Nav use SK17 8RH.

Parking

There is ample free parking at the Centre. Note that the car park is at the rear of the centre and accessed via the entrance opposite the Old Chapel.

Times?

You will be aiming to arrive at the Nightingale Centre on Monday 13th October any time between 11.30am and 12:30pm for booking in and an **opening session that begins at 1pm.**

What to do on arrival?

On arrival, please park your car, walk into the centre and follow the red carpet which will take you to Reception. A member of centre staff will be available to meet you.

The centre staff will have a bedroom allocation plan and will direct you to your room. You are welcome to use the Lounge / Sun Lounge to sit in (tea, coffee and water are available in the dining room) or to eat a packed lunch if you have brought one. You are also welcome to wander around the grounds, play on the swings, explore the village or to drive to nearby Tideswell if you plan to have lunch at one of the cafes there.

Rooms?

You will have been allocated a room to yourself (although your rooms may house other, unused, beds.) Bedding and towels are provided. You will be sharing a shower and toilet with no more than 4 other people.

Please read the information on the back of your bedroom door – it will tell you all about safety, locations (with colour coding) and Wi-Fi in the building.

Where and when to meet for the opening session?

We will all meet in the Lounge / Sun Lounge at 1pm

Clothing for the sessions?

As you will be aware... this is an active and practical residential - exploring through drama. Please wear loose comfortable clothing that allows free movement; clothes you don't mind 'playing around' in. We will be working for the most part in Peach Hall, which is carpeted, so we will take off our shoes as we enter and work in our socks, slippers, or bare feet (as you prefer).

Early Morning Options on Day 2

There is also an optional **short morning walk** in the beautiful surroundings of Great Hucklow, so please make sure that you have appropriate clothing and footwear if you are likely to want to go on that.

We are also offering an **early morning yoga** session from 7am - 7:45am (so you've got time to change and go on the walk too if you're so inclined!). The session will be accessible for anyone who wants to give it a go, even if you've never practised yoga before. All you'll need to do is bring a yoga mat - but we can bring one for you to borrow if you let us know in advance.

The Work?

The extensive programme of exciting drama workshops will be delivered by Sue Harding, Matt Wardle and Peter Kennedy. The scheme of work will form the basis of your own delivery in school during the project. No previous knowledge of the text is required or expected.

Food?

Evening meal, breakfast and lunch (on 2nd day) are provided at the Nightingale Centre. **You will need to organise your own lunch on the first day, with a packed lunch or alternative!** Tideswell nearby has some nice cafes, and the highly rated Bulls Head Inn (not open Mondays) is just down the road at Foolow. Meals will be served in the dining hall, and the staff will have been made aware of any dietary requirements. Tea, coffee, and water will be available throughout.

Social Time?

Following the conclusion of the practical session on Monday 13th October there will be social time in the sun lounge. You may wish to bring a selection of snacks for this time. The centre would prefer for us to purchase items from their well-stocked and reasonably priced honesty bar and have asked us to let you know that there is a corkage charge of £3 for any bottles of wine that you bring yourself.

What to bring?

- Anything you personally need for an overnight stay
- Drinks (alcoholic or otherwise) and snacks for the social time - or your cash card to pay for the reasonably priced honesty bar!

Departure

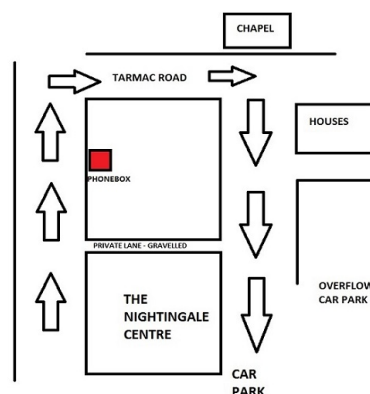
You will be free to leave on Tuesday 14th October no later than 3.00pm.

Contact Details

Sue Harding (Festival Director): 07926 356826 susie23harding@live.co.uk

Matt Wardle (Creative Producer) 07890 724917 matt@northwestdramaservices.co.uk

CAR PARK at The Nightingale Centre



Photography and Data Collection Consent Forms

Your school may be able to use the consent you have already gained in school, assuming you have a data sharing policy for outside agencies in place that covers photography and data collection (which we do in order to print pupil names in a programme). However, we recommend you check with your head teacher or GDPR lead as to whether you will need to send out a separate consent form.

We will talk more about this at the midpoint meeting.

Programme Information Form

If either a live or filmed performance takes place, you will need you to ensure that a Programme Information Form is completed for each participating class. This will need to be done in line with GDPR requirements, and so should only be done once you have completed your Collated Consent Form.

If you have any safeguarding arrangements in place for specific pupils which prohibit their name being in print, or any parents/ carers have refused consent for their child's name to be in the programme, then these names should be removed from the class list before sending to your festival director.

The Programme information Form will be available digitally from the 'Hamlet' resource page password **Horatio26**, under Generic performance phase documents > CSF Programme Information Form.

We will talk more about this at the midpoint meeting.

Risk Assessments

Our risk assessment is regularly updated - and will shortly be available from our website. This covers Sue's visits to your school and will, in due course, also cover your class's visit to the New Vic Theatre.

In the meantime please contact matt@northwestdramaservices.co.uk with any risk assessment related questions.