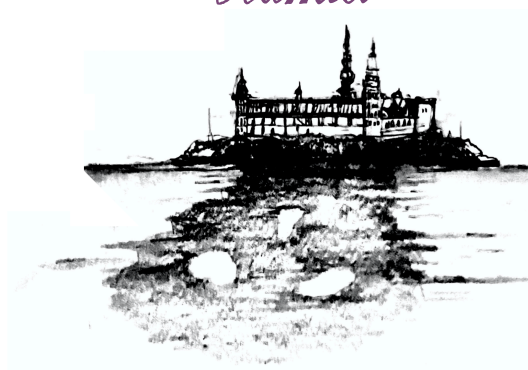




The Oldham & Rochdale Children's Shakespeare Festivals 2026

"THE READINESS IS ALL"

Hamlet



Performance at 6.00pm

on Thursday 18th June, Friday 19th June and Tuesday 23rd June 2026
at Middleton Arena

Festival Director	Peter Kennedy	07969 240733 peterkennedydrama@gmail.com
Creative Producer	Matt Wardle	07890 724 917 matt@northwestdramaservices.co.uk

INFORMATION PACK 1

General Information

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Oldham & Rochdale CSF 2026 Participating Schools

Thursday 18 th June	Friday 19 th June	Tuesday 23 rd June
Alt Academy (x 2 classes) Greenhill Academy (x 2 classes) Northmoor Academy (x 2 classes)	Westwood Academy (x 1 class) Werneth Primary (x 2 classes) Norden Academy (x 2 classes)	Greenfield Academy (x 1 class) Holy Family RC Primary (x 1 class) Spotland Academy (x 2 classes) Richmond Academy (x 2 classes)

The 3 Phases of the Oldham & Rochdale 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:** Peter comes into school to lead a launch workshop with your 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:** Peter 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:** Peter visits your class to watch your piece and offer any advice/ directorial tips required

Performance phase:

- **Technical Script:** You will select from a lighting and sound/music palette to create a technical script which will be submitted to the technical team at Middleton Arena – advice and help with this will be available.
- **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 the stage at Middleton Arena
- **Performance:** Each class will have one performance day (as indicated above) and will have a dress rehearsal in the afternoon and a public performance at 6.00 pm along with the other classes in your festival.

Provisional Project Timeline

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

January to April - Exploration Phase

January 7th and 8th 2026: 26 hour residential at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 8RH*. Work from 1pm on 7th until 3.00 pm on 8th. Immersion in the full scheme of work on *Hamlet*.

January 2026: Planning for implementation of the scheme of work in your own classrooms

January onwards 2026: Launch workshop in school. Peter will deliver a 90 minute introductory workshop with participating pupils to launch the project. The exact date of this will be by arrangement with each individual school

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

April/ May to July - Devising and Rehearsal Phase

March / April 2026 (exact date TBC): Mid-point meeting at Middleton Arena. 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. Peter/ Matt 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.

April / May 2026: Your Performance Focus*. Peter 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

April/ May – June 2026: Devising and Rehearsing. Teachers and pupils develop a 10-minute piece based upon their performance focus area. The piece is developed and rehearsed in the run up to your final performance

June/ July -Performance Phase

May/June 2026: Director Visit* Half-day director visit from Peter. A chance for him to see your class performance, rehearse, discuss 'performance skills' and give any support as required

May/June 2026: Technical Script Writing* Finalising technical scripts to include lighting, sound, and music for the technical team at Middleton Arena. More information on this to follow.

June 2026 (date TBC): Technical Script Zoom Meeting A 20 minute online meeting to talk through your sound, lighting and music requirements with Peter who will then prepare the full technical script for use by Middleton Arena.

Thursday 18th June OR Friday 19th June OR Tuesday 23rd June: Performance Day* Teachers and classes arrive for their technical rehearsal slot (times TBC) before afternoon dress rehearsal and evening (6.00 pm) performances.

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

An important meeting where you will find out more about how the performance phase works. Please have a copy of both this information pack along with a copy of Pack 2 (Performance Phase Information) which will be emailed to you prior to the 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, pupils' 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 see later in this pack for more information.

Programme Information Form

Please complete the Programme Information Form and send it to Matt Wardle 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 later in this pack 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

Peter 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 and speech from the scheme of work with your classes.

Technical Script Zoom Meeting

At this crucial Zoom meeting with Peter, 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 the Performance Phase Information Pack. 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.

Performance Day

On this day, classes will come to Middleton Arena, have a technical rehearsal on stage in the morning followed by a dress rehearsal in the afternoon and a public performance at 6.00 pm.

If you have any questions, please contact: Peter (Festival Director) or Matt (Producer)

26 Hour Residential

Information for Attendees

Wednesday 7th January 1pm – Thursday 8th January 3.00pm

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 (see map below). Please take care not to block anyone in as there may be a group leaving the centre at the same time as you start.

Times?

You will be aiming to arrive at the Nightingale Centre on Wednesday 7th January 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, *leave your overnight bags in your car for now*, 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.

Depending on whether the rooms are ready at the time you arrive, we may or may not be able to give you your room key until dinner time. 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 wifi in the building.

Where and when to meet for the opening session?

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

What should I wear?

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. The floor can be a little cold in January so you may wish to bring thick socks or slipper socks for this. If you wish to join us for the yoga or walk (see below) you will need to bring appropriate clothing and footwear for those activities.

Early Morning Options on Day 2

We offer 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.

There is also an optional **short morning walk** from 8.00 am to 8.30 am 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.

Alternatively, you may just meet us for breakfast at 8.30 am.

The Work?

The extensive programme of exciting drama workshops will be delivered by Sue Harding, Matt Wardle, Peter Kennedy, and Joe England. 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 (on arrival day), 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 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 Wednesday 7th January there will be social time (and optional entertainment / games) in the lounge / sun lounge. You may wish to bring a selection of snacks for this time.

What to bring?

- Anything you personally need for an overnight stay
- Drinks (alcoholic or otherwise) and snacks for the social 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

Departure

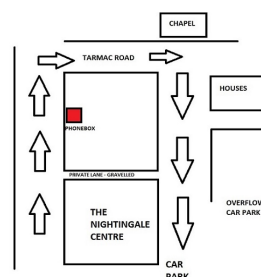
We will finish and you will be free to leave on Thursday 8th January no later than 3.00 pm.

Contact Details

Peter Kennedy (Festival Director): 07969 240733 peterkennedydrama@gmail.com

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

How To Access The 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 need 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 specifically for the festival.

We will talk more about this at the midpoint meeting.

Programme Information Form

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 Matt Wardle.

The Programme Information Form will be available digitally from the Hamlet Resource Page (password is **Horatio26**), under [Project Forms for All Festivals](#) > [CSF Programme Information Form](#).

We will talk more about this at the midpoint meeting.

Risk Assessments

The risk assessment for your theatre visit will be on the resource page from around the time of your midpoint meeting.

In the meantime please contact Matt Wardle, Creative Producer with any general risk assessment related questions.