

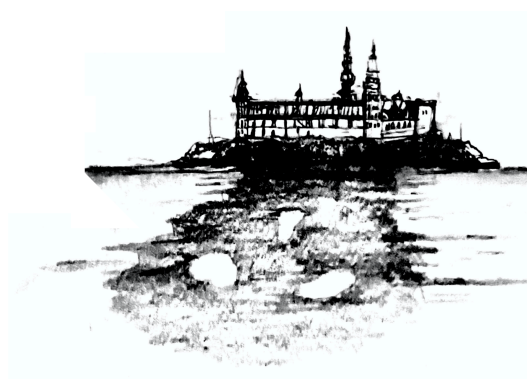


LOWRY



"THE READINESS IS ALL"

Hamlet



Lowry Children's Shakespeare Festivals 2026
Performances at **2.30pm** and **6:30pm** on **Tuesday 7th July**
and **Wednesday 8th July 2026**

Festival Director / Creative Producer	Matt Wardle	07890 724 917 matt@northwestdramaservices.co.uk
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INFORMATION PACK 1

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Lowry Children's Shakespeare Festival 2026 Performance Groups

Lowry CSF 1 – Tuesday 7th July

Devonshire Road Primary School (2 classes)
St Andrew's CE Primary School (1 class)
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School (1 class)
Seymour Park Community Primary School (3 class)

Lowry CSF 2 – Wednesday 8th July

Moss Valley Primary Academy (1 class)
The Deans Primary Academy (2 classes)
Ss John Fisher & Thomas More Catholic Primary School (2 classes)
Whitchurch CE Primary Academy (3 classes)

**Please let Matt know ASAP if there are any problems with these dates*

The Three Phases of Lowry 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:** Matt comes into school to run a launch workshop to begin the project with your class before you deliver the scheme of work
- **Scheme of Work:** You and your class explore the play through our scheme of work

Devising and rehearsal phase:

- **Focus:** Matt gives you a performance focus area - the area of the story we would like you to focus on for your class's performance piece (each class will have a different performance focus)
- **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
- **Director visit:** Matt visits your class to watch your piece and offer any advice/ directorial tips as 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 from The Lowry – Matt will offer advice and help with this at a short technical script meeting just prior to your performance day
- **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 of The Quays Theatre at Lowry
- **Performance:** On the day of your performance, each class will perform in the afternoon at 2:30pm and again at 6.30 pm along with the other classes in your festival.

Project Timeline

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

January to April - Exploration Phase

Weds 14th and Thurs 15th January 2026: 26-hour Residential at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 8RH*. Work from 1pm on 14th January until 3pm on 15th January. Immersion in the full scheme of work on *Hamlet*.

Following the residential: Planning for implementation of the scheme of work in your own classrooms

Following the residential: Launch workshop in school. Matt 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.

April/ May to June - Devising and Rehearsal Phase

April 2026 Your Performance Focus*. Matt 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 2026 (Date TBC) 1pm – 4pm: Mid-point meeting at Lowry*. 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. We will explain about the **CSF Consent Forms***, **Programme information Form*** and **Lowry BOPA 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

May/ June: 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

Late June/ Early July: Director Visit* 1.5 hours director visit from Matt. A chance for him to see your class performance, rehearse, discuss 'performance skills' and give any support as required.

Early July (date and time tbc): Technical Script Zoom meeting with Matt to finalise technical aspects (lighting, sound, and music) of scripts for performance. The performance script will be finalised at this meeting.

Tuesday 7th July or Wednesday 8th July: Performance Day Teachers and classes arrive for their technical rehearsal during the morning, before a whole company rehearsal prior to our performances. We will confirm times etc as soon as we can. The day concludes at approximately 8pm.

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 this year.

Midpoint Meeting

An important meeting where you will find out more about how the performance phase works. Please have a copy of this pack with you if you can, 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, 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. 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.

Lowry BOPA Form

For our performances at Lowry, we are required to apply for a Body of Persons Application (a type of performance Licence) from Salford City Council. This requires us to collect specific information from each school. Please see Page 7 for more information on this.

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

Matt 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 finale speech from the scheme of work with your classes.

Technical Script Writing

We will provide a lighting and sound/music palette from which you can select technical elements to enhance your performance. Using this you will create a technical script which the stage manager and technical team at Lowry will use to provide light and sound for your performance. A script template will be provided. More detailed guidance on this will be issued in Information Pack 2 (Performance Phase Information) and we will talk about this more at the midpoint meeting.

Performance Day

On your designated day, your classes will come to Lowry, have a technical rehearsal on stage in the morning followed by rehearsal of the inter-school elements (song, speech and jig) then two performances - one at 2.30pm and another at 6.30pm.

If you have any questions, please contact Matt.

26-hour Residential 2026

General Information for Attendees

Wednesday 14th January 2026 1pm – Thursday 15th January 2026 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 Wednesday 14th 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, 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. Due to your residential overlapping with another group, your keys will be given out later in the day, but you can bring your bags inside and leave them in the lounge/ sun lounge until later.

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 (or slippers if you prefer). The carpeted floor in Peach Hall can be a little chilly in January, so we'd recommend bringing some thick socks or slippers.

Early Morning Options on Day 2

There is also an optional **short morning walk at 8am** 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 Matt Wardle, Sue Harding, 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 1st 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 (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 Wednesday 14th January 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.

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!

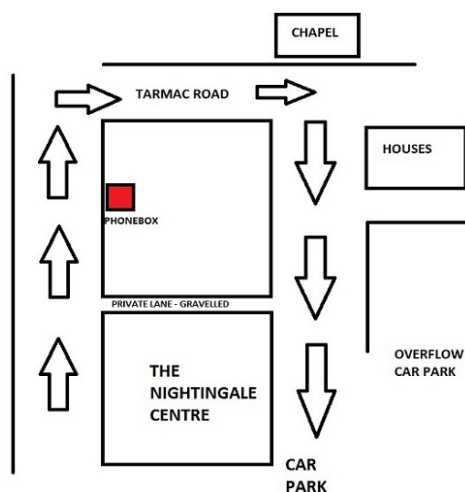
Departure

You will be free to leave on Thursday 15th January no later than 3.00pm.

Contact Details

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

Accessing 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 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.

The Pupil Consent Form and Collated Consent Forms will be available digitally from the 'Hamlet' resource page (password **Horatio26**), under 'Lowry CSFs'.

We will talk more about this at the midpoint meeting.

Programme Information Form

At the midpoint meeting we will ask you complete a Programme Information Form for each participating class. This will need to be done in line with Data Protection 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.

Lowry BOPA Form

For our performances at Lowry, we are required to apply for a Body of Persons Application (a type of performance Licence) from Salford City Council. To do this we will ask you to complete a form which tells us the names, DBS certificate numbers and job roles of the adults accompanying the children to Lowry, along with the number of children who will be performing.

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@northwestdramaservices.co.uk with any risk assessment related questions.