

A Level Drama and Theatre – Summer work.

To help you prepare for the wonderful challenges and depth of the course, I would like you to do the following preparatory work. Please complete these tasks by your first lesson back in September. Further detail regarding each task will be available on Frog or you can email me on ktarrant@fromecollege.org if you need any help – enjoy!

1. Widen your knowledge of playwriting: Read a play. It is entirely your choice, it can either be a classic or a piece of new writing. Bring the play to the first lesson in September and prepare a 2-minute summary of its plot, performance style, and the themes the playwright explores to share verbally with the class.

2. Written evaluation and analysis: Performance essay. Head online and watch a National Theatre (NT) Live performance. It is up to you which one you choose and there are some great plays available including Frankenstein and A Streetcar Named Desire. You need to be evaluating the production in terms of acting, design, costume as well as use of design and technology. What were the director's intentions for the audience, and did they achieve them? Make a judgement – this essay is about your opinion.

3. Performance skills: Learn a monologue. Your choice. 2-3 minutes in length. I don't mind if it is from a play or a film script, but make sure you know what the whole play/film is about, and it's a little out of your comfort zone. You will be given a lesson or two for rehearsal but you need to be ready to perform by the end of the first week. You will also need to complete a short piece of written work that details your performance intentions.

4. Knowledge of theatrical practice: Research a practitioner. Choosing from the list below do some detailed research of the practice and methodology of one of the practitioners. You must include detailed examples of their style of performance and what makes it unique as well as basic information such as where and when they were creating theatre. A mind map of images from their productions would be ideal if possible and if you could include some actual practical examples of techniques used that we could try in lessons when we are back in school. This will feed in to some workshops you will be leading early on in the course.

Bertolt Brecht

Mike Leigh

Kneehigh

Splendid

Forced Entertainment

Gecko

Punchdrunk

Pina Bausch

Grotowski

Steven Berkoff

