



# Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Digital Theatre + and National Theatre Live for the study of Drama and English and access to live theatre.

We are delighted to announce that, with grateful thanks to our wonderful PTA, we now have access to **Digital Theatre +** for our students, a platform which hosts over 1300 curriculum-mapped resources for English, Drama and the Performing Arts, including high-quality filmed performances. We have this subscription for a year and we hope it will bring a lot of joy to our students and their families while the theatres and live events are all closed.

All GCSE and A level Drama students have to have access to live performance but the exam boards are accepting recorded performances as a suitable replacement this year.

For our younger students this is a free way to access some wonderfully inventive performances that they can enjoy and access at home and we hope everyone gets a lot of pleasure from them.

We wanted to introduce you to the ways your child can engage with the platform at home.

## What is Digital Theatre+?

Digital Theatre+ provides access to live theatre performances from around the world as well as interviews with industry professionals, backstage insights and study guides. Supporting a variety of learners of all ages and abilities, students are able to engage with both audio-visual and written materials to develop their knowledge and understanding of key texts.

## What are the benefits of Digital Theatre+ for students?

Students will have access, at home and in school, to over 450 performances, including some of the texts they are currently studying at school and I have listed some of the English texts below. This means that, as well as reading the play text, they can watch performances to help them engage with the play in a different, exciting way, allowing them to deepen their understanding.

Students can also go behind the scenes of some of theatre's biggest shows by watching interviews with directors, actors and designers discussing their practice and methods. This also gives students the chance to learn about career opportunities from those with experience in the industry, highlighting all the roles available in the world of theatre and the arts.

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### How can students engage with Digital Theatre+ at home?

Digital Theatre+ can be accessed on multiple devices with the log in details given to your child which are below. Productions are separated into acts, key scenes and speeches so students can easily navigate to the sections they are studying.

They may be asked to watch a scene from a production or an interview for homework and revision purposes, but they are also free to search the site and discover new resources that may inspire and interest them. Each piece of content includes a list of related resources underneath for further study and is also signposted with content warnings if applicable.

Log in details: These must only be used by students of Poynton High. go to <https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education> and SIGN IN

**Group Username** - user.poyntonhs

**Password** - dt123

**Safe guarding** - Once signed in you can click on this link for a list of plays on the site with some form of adult content. All the shows that are recommended to the students will obviously be age appropriate and parents are responsible for what students access while they are at home.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-5aJNERbHknkgirUmtUROBvcf9YnVuAgUR2GYWfT0IE/edit?usp=sharing>

This link will take you to a PDF of some recommended for Key Stage 3 students <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WvZGFjkUqiRTruzAY9HC7wXk-aomqbsl/view?usp=sharing>

Recommendations from Year 7/8 students are: **Into the Woods, Comedy of Errors, Henry V, Railway Children and Billy the Kid.**

### National Theatre On Line

We also have access to some wonderful shows in the National Theatre Collection;

- Log in details are:
- Search Drama on line
- Go to log in and then access - not personal
- User name : Poyntonstudents
- password: Pa55word

We are delighted that so many of our students have logged in already and watched some theatre. Recommendations from students in year 7 and 8 have included Peter Pan, Romeo and Juliet, Treasure Island, and older students have highly recommended Frankenstein, Small Island, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Antigone, Romeo and Juliet, Small Island and the very funny One Man Two Guvnors. All shows are marked as to what they consider age appropriate.

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# Resources linked to English that will work for both Drama and English studies

## Year 7

Digital Theatre: - **Wuthering Heights** – an interview with writer and Director Polly Teale.

There is a brilliant production of **Jane Eyre** on the National Theatre website.

Digital Theatre - **The Tempest** - Three productions, study guides, educational packs, loads of interviews on character and theme and the text itself.

## Year 8- studying Frankenstein in English

Here are the resources which help with study on Digital Theatre

### Digital theatre

[https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education/searching?form\\_id=views\\_exposed\\_form&phrase=frankenstein&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B490%5D=490&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B129%5D=129&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B6135%5D=6135&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B130%5D=130&op=Search](https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education/searching?form_id=views_exposed_form&phrase=frankenstein&field_listing_pages%5B490%5D=490&field_listing_pages%5B129%5D=129&field_listing_pages%5B6135%5D=6135&field_listing_pages%5B130%5D=130&op=Search)

On Digital theatre there is the **Frankenstein** teacher tool kit with lots of resources  
<https://education.digitaltheatreplus.com/frankenstein-toolkit-uk-drama?hsCtaTracking=6a997a1e-6c41-41ea-90c6-98ecf3643e18%7C681bb983-623b-49c5-8f10-9033d56fcd7>

The Production of **Frankenstein** on the National Theatre website comes with an age warning of 15+. It is the Danny Boyle production with a choice of Johnny Lee Miller or Benedict Cumberbatch as the monster and the lighting and performance work is pretty spectacular.

Please also see the Virtual resources for younger students which gives you a range of ideas of productions and also if you go to Teaching with Digital+ it will take you to some Virtual lessons plans for **Inspector calls Frankenstein and Othello**

## Year 9

Romeo and Juliet. Productions and loads of information available  
[https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education/searching?form\\_id=views\\_exposed\\_form&phrase=Romeo+and+Juliet&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B490%5D=490&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B129%5D=129&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B6135%5D=6135&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B130%5D=130&op=Search](https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education/searching?form_id=views_exposed_form&phrase=Romeo+and+Juliet&field_listing_pages%5B490%5D=490&field_listing_pages%5B129%5D=129&field_listing_pages%5B6135%5D=6135&field_listing_pages%5B130%5D=130&op=Search)

## **GCSE - Digital Theatre**

English A Christmas Carol – character lock in Richard Armitage on Scrooge

An Inspector calls -  
[https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education/searching?form\\_id=views\\_exposed\\_form&phrase=an+inspector+calls&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B490%5D=490&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B129%5D=129&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B6135%5D=6135&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B130%5D=130&op=Search](https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education/searching?form_id=views_exposed_form&phrase=an+inspector+calls&field_listing_pages%5B490%5D=490&field_listing_pages%5B129%5D=129&field_listing_pages%5B6135%5D=6135&field_listing_pages%5B130%5D=130&op=Search)

Drama - All plays can be watched for the Live Review section. Currently some students are exploring Frantic Assembly's Things I know to be true.  
[https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education/searching?form\\_id=views\\_exposed\\_form&phrase=frantic+assembly&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B490%5D=490&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B129%5D=129&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B6135%5D=6135&field\\_listing\\_pages%5B130%5D=130&op=Search](https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education/searching?form_id=views_exposed_form&phrase=frantic+assembly&field_listing_pages%5B490%5D=490&field_listing_pages%5B129%5D=129&field_listing_pages%5B6135%5D=6135&field_listing_pages%5B130%5D=130&op=Search)

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**A level**

All plays by Shakespeare are available for study

**Othello** – interviews, productions, compare and contrasts and lesson tool kits

Drama - **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** - Tennessee Williams - National Theatre

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. I hope you enjoy the resources.

Kindest regards

Ally Cutler

Drama teacher

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