



School Partnerships



A Year-Long Partnership

Showcasing careers, supporting learning, enhancing wellbeing & access to the North West's only full-time producing theatre.

Royal Exchange Theatre have launched a year-long partnership programme for schools and colleges across Greater Manchester. Each partnership will be bespoke to each school or college, designed with the partner, to ensure maximum impact for students needs. We will draw on our access to exciting, experienced practitioners and artists working professionally in the industry to lead on workshops and projects.

The programme will creatively support the curriculum, promote creativity as essential for wellbeing, and deepen student and teachers' understanding of theatre through workshops, backstage access, performance opportunities and insight into careers from Royal Exchange Theatre's staff and freelance creatives.

This is an exciting opportunity for us to build in depth relationships with students and teachers. As well as providing teachers an opportunities to expand their own practice, we know that from experience, longer engagements help young people to express themselves, open doors that may not have been available before and develop transferable skills that have a significant impact on future aspirations and outcomes.



The partnership programme aims to:

- Promote the 147 jobs & careers young people could have in the arts sector
- Improve young people's wellbeing
- Enhance social skills, confidence and emotional learning
- Develop transferable skills
- Build long lasting relationships with young people and teachers
- Increase cultural capital for young people and schools
- Give young people their first positive experience of theatre and take ownership of the space



What would be included?

We have three levels available and can tailor our partnerships to suit your needs. The benefits and perks for partner schools & colleges include:

Gold Package

- Up to 15 tickets for 2 productions and 1 of our schools and colleges days (workshop with cast, director, watch the show and Q&A with cast)
- 1 space guaranteed for Careers In Theatre Week work experience
- Up to 15 students can observe a tech rehearsal for one production
- 1 Backstage tour of the theatre
- 1 Shakespeare Sparring Workshop
- 1 Careers In Theatre Workshop
- A Young Company taster workshop in June/July 2024
- Plus opportunities to take part in other ad hoc projects and events.

Silver Package

- 13 bespoke workshops over 13 weeks with sharing or outcome at your school
- Up to 30 tickets for 2 productions and 1 of our schools and colleges days (workshop with cast, director, watch the show and Q&A with cast)
- 2 spaces guaranteed for Careers In Theatre Week work experience
- Free Collective memberships for up to 30 students
- Up to 30 students can observe a tech rehearsal for selected productions
- 2 teacher invites to press night
- 1 Backstage tour of the theatre
- 1 Shakespeare Sparring Workshop
- 1 Careers In Theatre Workshop
- A Young Company taster workshop in June or July 2025
- Plus opportunities to take part in other ad hoc projects and events.



Bronze Package

- 13 bespoke workshops over 13 weeks with sharing or outcome at the theatre (workshop with cast, director, watch the show and Q&A with cast)
- Up to 30 tickets for 2 productions and 1 of our schools and colleges days
- 2 spaces guaranteed for Careers In Theatre Week work experience
- Free Collective memberships for up to 30 students
- Up to 30 students can observe a tech rehearsal for every productions
- 3 teacher invites to press night
- 1 Backstage tour of the theatre
- 1 Shakespeare Sparring Workshop
- 1 Careers In Theatre Workshop
- A Young Company taster workshop in June or July 2025
- Plus opportunities to take part in other ad hoc projects and events.

Primary School Package

- 8 bespoke workshops over 8 weeks with sharing or outcome.
- 2 teacher invites to press nights
- 1 Backstage tour of the theatre
- 1 Shakespeare Sparring Workshop
- 1 Careers In Theatre Workshop
- Plus opportunities to take part in other ad hoc projects and events.

“The partnership with The Royal Exchange and my school has been invaluable. Over time the relationship has evolved and afforded our young people amazing opportunities to see live theatre and be involved in performing. We have seen an uptake in pupils choosing performing arts subjects at GCSE tripling our cohort which I credit the partnership for promoting. I will always be grateful for this partnership and know my students feel the same, they love the Royal Exchange and are much more culturally aware and confident because of it”



Previous Partnership Projects

Examples of projects delivered with previous partner schools include:

Makers Course

This 10 week project gave 30 students an insight into different arts careers. Throughout the project different professional theatre makers visited: Gitika Buttoo gave an insight into directing, Olivia Walters who has worked with SZA, Lorde and Florence & The Machine delivered a stage design workshop. Anna Fernley inspired the students through the world of costume and Steve Vickers, from Manchester International Festival, ran a session about producing. The skills were put into practice culminating in a collaborative group project, using Romeo and Juliet as a stimulus, with each group presenting their ideas.

“Loved getting to meet people who work in the actual theatre industry because you can see what actually happens and how it works and gave us a really new insight on things. I loved the costume and stage design workshop. I liked coming out with my ideas. Student

Great Expectations Curtain Raiser

Across 2 weeks we worked with The East Manchester Academy to create a curtain raiser for Great Expectations, inspired by some of the themes from the production.

The students explored multiple art forms and created a beautiful piece of theatre which was performed to a live audience in The Great Hall before the main house production. The pieces focused on different forms of inequality that the students wanted to highlight such as misogyny, racism, bullying, mental health, women’s rights and more. Giving the students autonomy over what was created and a public platform to be heard contributed to the success of the project for both the school and the theatre.

“They performed it again this week in assembly. Honestly, they still keep talking about it.” - Deputy Head



Fashion and Textiles Work Experience

We welcomed in 10 Fashion and Textile Level 3 Diploma students from The Manchester College to take part in a 3-day work experience project with our costume department.

The students took part in workshops led by industry professionals such as pattern cutting, embroidery, breaking down fabrics and more. As part of the project, they watched our production 'untitled f*ck m*ss s**gon play' to learn about quick changes, costumes from different eras and they also had a Q&A with the assistant director.

At the end of the project they were set a brief by Head of Wardrobe, Tracy Dunk, to design costumes for our upcoming show Romeo & Juliet which they presented to the wardrobe department and received feedback.

Christmas Panto

As part of a partnership, we supported a school Christmas production of Cinderella by providing a director to bring an outside eye and give support for 3 rehearsals, a lighting technician, a make up artist for the main cast, and access to our costume hire.





“ I liked coming out with my ideas, when I first came here I didn't know how to speak English, and when I make mistakes people would laugh at me but in here I have made friends, I feel welcomed and listened to, everybody loves me. “

“I have never been to the theatre before and didn't know this place even existed, I have already text my mum to come back for a coffee and to see Romeo & Juliet”



“ It has been absolutely amazing everything that has been offered to us I can not thank you enough !! the kids have had so many opportunities they would never have experienced and it has been the making of some of our older students. “

