	ASSOCIATE SCHOOLS PROGRAMME "The Associate Schools Programme is our long-term partnership programme with schools and regional theatres across England."

Samphire Hoe RSC Playmaking Festival - 23rd June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

The RSC Associate Schools Programme works in two different ways at St Anselm's. It could be that your son/daughter has already participated in the programme via our Inspire curriculum, or perhaps attended our after-school RSC Club on a Wednesday.

The Associate Schools Programme is coordinated by The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury.

https://marlowetheatre.com/create/for-schools/associate-schools-programme/

The premise of the RSC-Associate Schools Programme is that students experience immersive workshops that explore the same rehearsal room practices used by the RSC.

https://www.rsc.org.uk/learn/schools-and-teachers/teacher-resources/rehearsal-room-approaches-to-shakespeare

Whilst we never change the language of Shakespeare, we do explore it in a variety of ways. We use games, choral response, mime, conscience alleys, and many other activities. We improvise alternative endings, such as what if Romeo HAD received that letter? We create newsflashes about various scenes, e.g. 'Violence breaks out yet again in Verona'. We choreograph dances to demonstrate the tensions between Capulets and Montagues.

On June 23rd, we will be taking a group of up to thirty students to Samphire Hoe to participate in the RSC Associate Schools Playmaking Festival. Schools from all over Kent will be performing sections of Shakespeare plays along the sea wall. The theme of the playmaking Festival is Shakespeare and The Sea. St Anselm's will be performing an extract from *The Merchant of Venice*. In March, we have an actor coming into school to work with the students on their performances; the students involved will be participating in a workshop during the school day.

Our rehearsals have already begun for the Samphire Hoe project during our Wednesday after-school RSC Club. I would really like to take this opportunity to thank all those students who have participated thus far; they will definitely be joining us on this exciting project in June.

However, there is still time for more students to get involved. If your child would like to participate, he or she still can. Students need to commit to attending the Wednesday RSC after school club from now until June.

The RSC Schools Associate Programme is open to all Year Groups, from Year 7 to Year 13.

Yours faithfully

Sarah Dawson

s.dawson@st-anselms.ork.uk

My child _____would like to participate in the RSC Associate Schools Programme Samphire Hoe Project.

Year group_____

He/She will attend the RSC after-school club (3:30-4:30) on Wednesdays until June 2025.

As part of this project, I give my permission for my son/daughter to be photographed/videoed, and for this to be shared on the school social media sites.

Signed _____ Date_____