



St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School Sixth Form

Year 11 Into Year 12 Transition Task

Subject: Drama & Theatre Studies (AQA)

SMRT Sixth Form takes students from a wide range of schools who have studied a variety of GCSE syllabuses. We want to ensure that everybody is equally able to access the content of the A Level and so the following tasks give you a chance to ensure you are fully prepared.

At SMRT we have used the AQA syllabus at GCSE. This is accessible from the exam board website, but we don't expect you to have looked at it.

To ensure you are ready to fully access the A Level Syllabus you should attempt these tasks:

Task A – Essential

Read 'Much Ado About Nothing' by Shakespeare. Please try to buy a cheap copy or there are many online versions. You will need to make notes on characters and how each character should be played.

There are many performances online to watch. The 1993 Kenneth Branagh film (available on Prime) is a lovely introduction to the purer stage versions, which you will watch clips of.

Here is an excellent NT version but you may have to rent it or create an account: [Much Ado About Nothing \(Rent\) - National Theatre at Home | Watch Theatre Online](#)

Another good version to watch for free is here: [Bing Videos](#)

Task B - Essential

Find a play and learn a monologue from it (use GCSE text if needs be)

Consider:

- Age & Gender
- Emotional journey
- Context of the character's own personal story within the text.
- You will be performing the monologue to the class within the first week in September.
- You should perform the monologue as if it is happening within a performance of the Play.
- You should read the play in its entirety. Why do you think you need to do this?
- It should be no shorter than 2 minutes in length.
- You are permitted to edit the text, as long as it still makes sense to the text and the character. E.g. too long or a line from other characters can be removed.
- You do not have to do an accent.
- Be brave! Challenge yourself.

- Do not leave it until the last minute.
- Record yourself doing it.
- Do it in front of a mirror.

Task C - Desirable

Watch all the free theatre you can. There are loads of theatres and companies streaming live theatre from the Old Vic, Digital Theatre, and The National Theatre. Some West End and Broadway shows are streaming and as one of your set texts will be *Much Ado About Nothing*, I would suggest watching some that The Globe are doing.

Task D – Preparation for a Practitioner Presentation

Wider research – investigate the links between Theatre and Politics, or social, cultural and historical context (SCH). This could be how the political views of writers or practitioners affect their work, or how particular plays or movements express political views, or even about types of theatre which emerged in political contexts. Create a mind map, research collage or something interesting in response to one of the companies/practitioners below:

Kneehigh: [This is Kneehigh](#)

Steven Berkoff: [Introduction](#)

Brecht: [Introduction to Brecht.](#)

Frantic Assembly: [FA website](#)

Paper Birds: [Paper Birds website](#)

Complicité : [Website](#)