

## WHAT I HAVE LEARNT...

This is what the children told us

How to carry on with the play even if you or someone else makes a mistake;  
to improvise quickly and turn errors into opportunities

How to keep in character all the way through even when I am not talking or singing.  
This means I have to focus and concentrate all of the time

How to enjoy working hard

How to be well behaved even when a teacher is not watching me

How to listen carefully to instructions

How to act so that the audience are convinced I am the character I am playing

How to work as part of a team

How to be full of energy and determination

How to be more confident

How to pour drinks without spilling them

How to hang coats up correctly

How to show people to their seats

How to put things on stage in exactly the right place

How to put make-up on effectively

How to sew

How to do what you know you should do, not what other children tell you to do



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# Acting the Part

As a school that focuses on developing children's  
creative abilities and talents you might expect that  
we provide opportunities for children to perform.



We are a school that focuses on developing children's creative abilities and talents and, as you might expect, we provide many opportunities for children to perform.

In Lower School children may be given opportunities to perform in front of their friends during assembly or class time. They also perform to parents in their Christmas play and music concerts. We have equipped the Lower School hall with good sound and light equipment and a portable stage so that the whole experience is enhanced.

In Upper School we raise performances to a whole new level! Once a year children in years 3 & 4 and 5 & 6 work towards the production of a full two hour performance of a musical play. Every child is involved but not every child chooses to act. Planning for the plays begins many months in advance of the performance and auditions are modelled on the Andrew Lloyd Webber auditions seen on television for selecting major characters to perform in West End shows.

All children who want to act are given a part but some children choose to take one of the backstage roles. This does not make their contribution any less important and the children understand this very well. After each production we vote for the best team and without exception a backstage team always wins the most votes. The children appreciate that without help, those on stage would not be able to perform effectively. Please praise your child for the part they have been selected to play – whatever that might be and please come and see the play even if they are not on stage. They will want to share their hard work and efforts with you.

All children who have chosen to act will need a costume and usually we send you a list of what they require and the date it should be brought in by.



Performance dates are published many months in advance and it is important that children are present for all performances even if they are feeling a little unwell. If they are very ill we would ask parents to contact us. It is important that after many weeks of rehearsal children do not let their friends down by not being present.

We like the children to get the most from this amazing experience and so treat it as if it were a West End show. All seats are numbered and parents purchase tickets and interval drinks in advance. Parents are asked to book their tickets as soon as they become available to avoid disappointment. They are limited to two tickets per family to ensure that there are enough for everyone and left over tickets are sold to those who request extras where possible.

We produce a DVD of the play for parents to purchase if they wish to as we do not allow photography or videoing during performances.

Children learn a great deal through their school production. The children can tell you in their own words what they think they have learnt. They are learning skills for life and building precious memories that they will never forget!