



# TALLIS 2014 2015 Newsletter

Week 22 – 27 February 2015

## CALENDAR:

2 March – 6 March 2015

Week A

### Monday 2 March

- Year 8 Trip to Imperial War Museum
- Year 7 Trip to the National Gallery
- Year 12 Trip to the National Theatre

### Tuesday 3 March

- AM Reg - Year 12 Assembly
- PM Reg - Year 13 Assembly
- Parent Forum with the Headteacher  
6.00 PM – 7.00 PM

### Wednesday 4 March

- AM Reg - Year 9 Assembly
- PM Reg - Year 7 Assembly
- Year 8 Parents' Evening 3.30 PM –  
6.30 PM

### Thursday 5 March

- AM Reg - Year 10 Assembly
- Acoustic/Solo Night

### Friday 6 March

- AM Reg - Year 9 Assembly
- PM Reg - Year 7 Assembly
- Year 11 TV News GCSE Exam Unit  
Study Day

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that half term was good for you. We've started back with a bang at Tallis as ever, with a very busy week. We've been visited by a world famous Violinist, facilitated a day of film making for 100 Year 8 students, premiered a National Theatre competition performance, hosted hundreds of primary school dancers and taken artists to Berlin (and to galleries in London).

We've had a great LGBT month too, and all our young people now know more about the law and equality issues. Our pilot Support Your Teen evening on Wednesday was superb, and we will try to run those workshops regularly. Our extra Year 11 Parents' Evening for targeted students was very well attended too. It is always good to meet parents; if there is anything else that we can put on to support you, do let us know.

Year 8 Parents' Evening is next Wednesday 4 March, 3.30 pm to 6.30 pm.

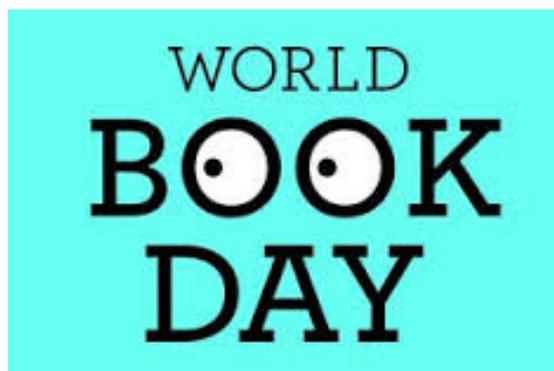
On into spring!

**Carolyn Roberts, Headteacher**



facebook.com/creativetallis  
twitter.com/creativetallis  
flickr.com/photos/tallisphot

## The Library and World Book Day – Thursday 5 March



There are ten **free** books on offer available from participating bookshops:

**The Dinosaur That Pooped A Lot! - Tom Fletcher & Dougie Poynter**  
**Elmer's Parade - David McKee**  
**A Pirate's Guide to Landlubbing - Jonny Duddle**  
**Magic Animal Friends: Lucy Longwhiskers Finds a Friend - Daisy Meadows**  
**Goth Girl and the Pirate Queen - Chris Riddell**  
**The Diary of Dennis the Menace: World Menace Day - Steven Butler**  
**Best Mates - Michael Morpurgo MBE**  
**Dork Diaries: How to be a Dork! - Rachel Renée Russell**  
**Geek Girl: Geek Drama - Holly Smale**  
**Killing the Dead - Marcus Sedgwick**

These books are given **free** by participating bookshops (while stocks last) in exchange for the token.

Further details can be found displayed in the School Library and in the corridor by the Lower Library leading to the walkway (1<sup>st</sup> floor block 6). Please encourage your children to visit us.

The book tokens are valid only until **Sunday 29 March** and will be distributed to the students from 2 March.

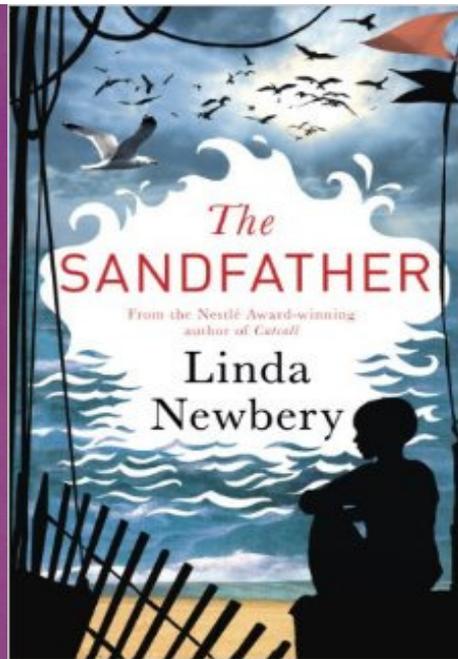
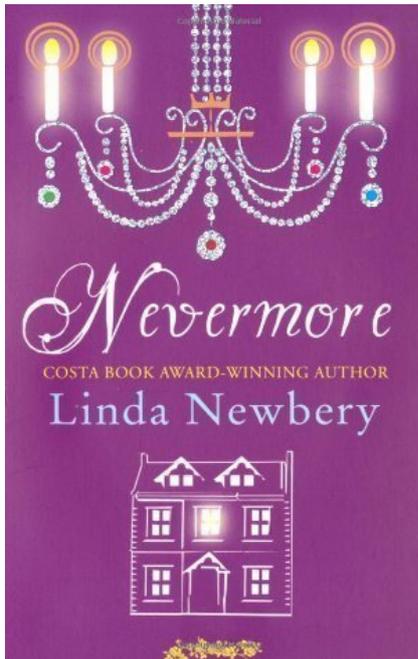
A promotional poster for a 'Meet an Author' event. At the top left is a green banner with 'WORLD BOOK DAY' and '5 MARCH 2015'. To the right is the 'THOMAS TALLIS SCHOOL' logo. The main text reads 'MEET AN AUTHOR' followed by 'MR. WAINWRIGHT, AUTHOR OF 'THE ENDLESS CIRCLE' SERIES'. Below this are three book covers: 'COAT OF FIRE', 'THE ENDLESS CIRCLE: A SLAY OF SINS', and 'THE ENDLESS CIRCLE: A STEEL &amp; STONE'. A paragraph describes Mr. Wainwright as the author of the 'The Endless Circle' series of YA fantasy novels, working in the Deaf Support Centre at Thomas Tallis. The event details are 'THURSDAY 5TH MARCH LUNCHTIME: 1.10PM IN THE LIBRARY'. The background features a dark, rocky landscape with snow or ice.

In celebration of World Book Day, Mr. Wainwright (from our Deaf Support Centre) will be in the **Library at lunchtime on Thursday 5 March** for a **Meet the Author** session. He will talk about the books he has written and answer any questions. Please encourage your children and their friends to come along.

## Award Winning Guest Author, Linda Newbery



We also have an **Award Winning Guest Author, Linda Newbery**, visiting the School on **Friday 6 March** to talk to our Year 7 students. Linda Newbery is an author of many titles and writes for a variety of ages. *Set in Stone*, *The Shell House* and *Sisterland* are some of her titles for teenage readers, *The Sandfather*, *The Treasure House*, *Nevermore*, *Catcall* and *Blitz Boys* are amongst her titles for lower secondary ages. Several of her books focus on WW1 - *Polly's Mark & Shell House*, *Tilly's Promise*, and a short story, *Dandelions for Margo*, is in a Tony Bradman anthology.



We have many of these books available in the library for the students to borrow. On the event day students will also have the opportunity to buy their own signed copies of her books.

In addition, we are also planning to take a group of year Key Stage 3 students to Shooters Hill Post 16 Centre, to participate in a Library led Greenwich Schools Book Quiz on 17 March – more details to follow.

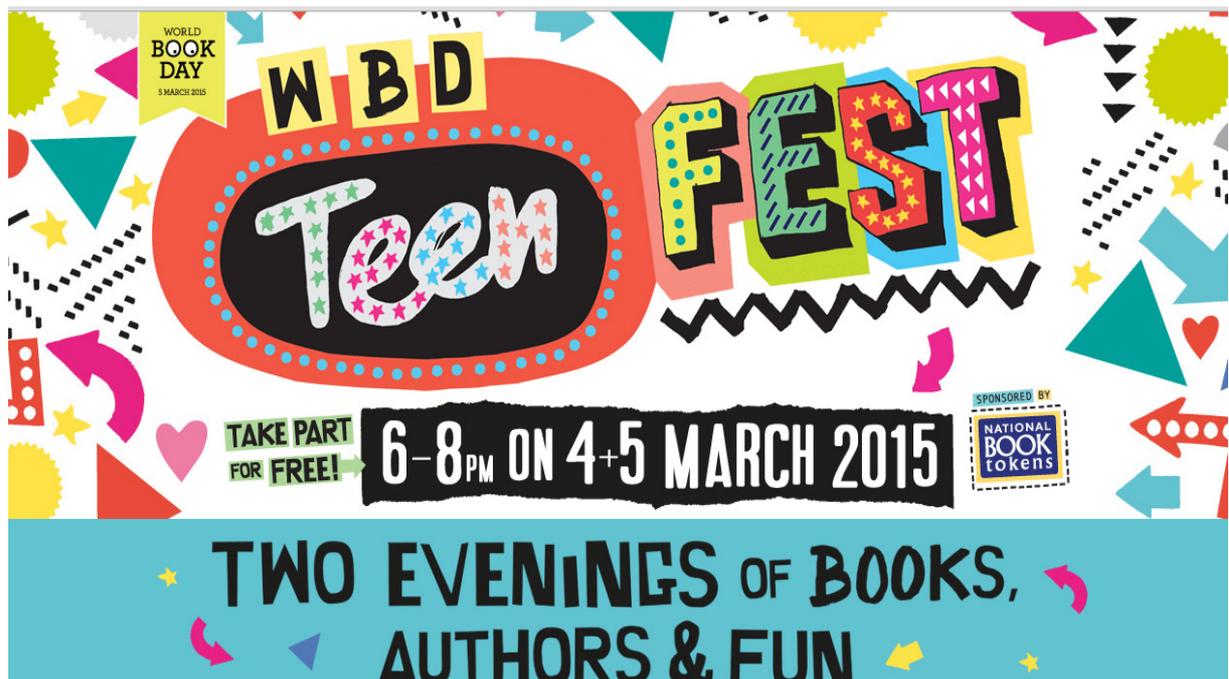
For more information on World Book Day please visit: <http://www.worldbookday.com/>

For more information on Linda Newbery visit:  
<http://www.lindanewbery.co.uk/>

In addition we are also planning to take a group of year Key Stage 3 students to Shooters Hill Post 16 Centre, to participate in a library led Greenwich Schools Book Quiz on 17 March. More details to follow.

**The Library**

## World Book Day



As part of the celebrations for World Book Day, Thomas Tallis will be collecting for the charity, Book Aid International. This charity, 'increases access to books and supports literacy, education and development in sub-Saharan Africa. Millions of people in small communities, towns, cities, refugee camps, prisons, schools and universities use the books we send.' Please have a look at the website if you'd like to find out a bit more: <http://www.bookaid.org/>

Also as part of the celebrations for World Book Day, there is a host of exciting events live, online at: <http://www.wbdteenfest.com/>. I have included the blurb below from the website. Do have a look and join in some of the activities with your children.

On 4 and 5 March from 6 – 8 pm WBD TeenFest will bring amazing authors including Holly Smale, Marcus Sedgwick, Malorie Blackman and Derek Landy straight to your screen! With Hangouts and interviews, how-tos, blogposts, playlists, prizes and much more, each night will be packed with brilliant booky stuff as well as the chance to chat with other readers and writers. Oh, and did we mention... it's FREE!

**Alison Vitte, Literacy Coordinator**



My names Clara Bach and I am the new chair of the Student Council. The great news is this new council is a fresh start for us all. Since we were elected before Christmas we have had quite a few meetings and sorted out all of our roles within the council.

We have had a meeting with the Headteacher Mrs Roberts discussing uniform changes and another with Mr Curtis-Brignell about future assessments of pupils across the school. We now need your opinions on these subjects, your tutor reps will be asking for your thoughts so don't be afraid to speak up.

I hope this encourages everyone to understand that your thoughts count and there is a way for you to be heard. Obviously you can talk to the teaching staff but also you need to make sure that you talk to your own tutor reps so that we can make changes that are right for us as students. There are people in the school here who want to make a positive change. We need to hear your thoughts and what you want to see in your school.

We now have three notice boards outside the cafe area so keep an eye on them for important information and upcoming events.

I look forward to working with you all and hearing your ideas to help improve our Tallis community.

**Clara Bach 10JK**

## Year 8 Film Making

Year 8 participated in a brilliant day of film making this week. 100 lucky students learnt how to choreograph, act and direct a short film that was presented at the end of the day. All who took part thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The best film even won an Oscar! Well done to all.



Watch the Year 8 space for the next Mike Leigh or Andrea Arnold!

<https://vimeo.com/120483850>

**Victoria Hodgson, Head of Year 8**



Thomas Tallis Parents, Teachers and Friends Association are always seeking new recruits. Any amount of support is welcome.

Please contact us if you would like to get involved and help build a stronger community.

Lisa Sproat - [lsproat@thomasrallis.org.uk](mailto:lsproat@thomasrallis.org.uk)

Stephen Henderson - [shenderson@thomastallis.org.uk](mailto:shenderson@thomastallis.org.uk)

**Lisa Sproat and Stephen Henderson**

## **Year 7 “How To” Extended Dance Project**

Year 7 are working on an exciting extended project in dance this half term. If you would like to support your child please join in and have some fun!

You will be creating a ‘HOW TO DANCE CONTACT SKILLS’ Poster or PowerPoint or Video over three weeks. You should do a task each week so don't leave it all till the end or you will run out of time.

It should take one person 1.5 - 2 hours or two people 3 - 4 hours.

You can work on your own or collaboratively with a partner. If you choose to work with a partner it should be clear that it is the work of two people and that it has been done in twice the time it would have taken one person to make.

Your work should show Persistence, Discipline and Imagination.

Your teacher may set any of these three tasks in any order as the lesson order changes depending on when you get to dance with our Professional Dancer, so listen carefully in your lessons.

**Josh Kelly, Performing Arts**

### **Tabletops (Week 1)**

How do we make a safe tabletop?

What don't we do?

What type of tabletops can we make?

### **Counter Balance and Counter Tension (Week 2)**

How do we make safe counter balances and counter tensions?

What don't we do?

What type of counter balances and counter tensions can we make?

### **Lifts (Week 3)**

How do we make safe lifts?

What don't we do?

What type of lifts can we make?

You should use clear dance language, colour, images and instructions. You may have to do some research as well.



## Thomas Tallis Theatre Company

On Wednesday 25 February, Year 9 Theatre Company performed the play "The Accordion Shop" by Cush Jumbo. They gave an excellent performance to the audience including a Director from the National Theatre. The company is taking part in the National Theatre Connections Festival and will be taking the performance to Greenwich Theatre on 19 March.

**Zara Jaffrey, Performing Arts**

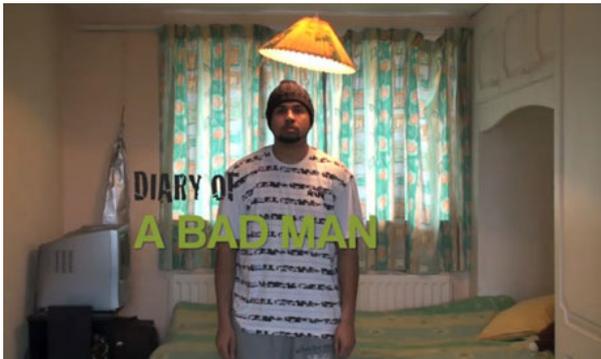


At Thomas Tallis School we encourage parents to use our on-line payment system, WisePay, to pay for school meals, school trips and events. The system has been chosen above others as it is very easy to use and offers significant benefits to parents. If you wish to know more please refer to the school website where you will find further information and guidance including the answers to frequently asked questions.

**The Finance Team**

## Diary of a Badman

On Tuesday 30 March 2015 during the PSHCE lesson, one student council tutor rep from each tutor group in Years 9 and 10 will be coming out of lesson to attend a session on extremism, presented through the medium of a Muslim comedian called Humza Arshad. Many young people are already familiar with Humza through his youtube clips of 'Diary of A Badman' which have had over 60 million views. Humza is a Streatham-born actor, comedian, director, producer and writer of Pakistani descent. His take on what life is like for a young British Pakistani Muslim has made him the most viewed comedian in the UK. The Student Council reps have been selected as students who will be able to take the message of the sessions and pass it on to the rest of their tutor group at a later stage.



Humza has made a 15-minute film to show teenagers the dangers of extremism. The Police and Local Authorities across London have come together to bring Humza to schools across the city. The "Think for Yourself" video aims to highlight the dangers of exposure to extremist messages. In Humza's own words;

*"I want to show that as Muslims we are about peace - and not as we are portrayed. I want to show the world that we are just like everyone else".*

You can watch the full video about Extremism/ Radicalisation [here](#)

The BBC, ITV and other mainstream news agencies have written articles such as those below showcasing the impact his presence can have:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-31004012>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-29597991>

<http://www.itv.com/news/central/2014-10-13/police-and-comedian-join-forces-to-make-extremism-awareness-video/>

**Michelle Springer, PSHCE**



**Theatre of Wine on behalf of Thomas Tallis PTFA presents  
An evening of wine tasting on  
Friday 20 March 2015**

Tickets £15.00 per person available from Thomas Tallis School (cheques payable to 'Thomas Tallis School')

Tickets on sale available to buy at Yr 8 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 4 March



## Community Day – Protest!

“There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest” Elie Wiesel  
*Eliezer "Elie" Wiesel KBE is a Jewish-American professor and political activist.*

By now all faculty reps should have spoken to people in their faculty areas about the type of activity which you will deliver on the next Community Day at the end of this term. I have seen and heard some really interesting ideas already.

The day is going to run in a way that we have not tried before, so I will be very interested to hear your views on it after it has taken place. The main aim is that all students experience the same theme on the day in different formats and from different disciplinary perspectives. There will be some registration activities that tutors can use in the lead up to the day and these will be sent around next week.

Years 7-10 and 12-13 – Theme of democratic participation, political process and protest.  
Year 11 – Theme of raising attainment and revision strategies.

The timetable of the day is as follows;  
Periods 1-4 ‘Normal’ lessons – this means that students will follow their usual timetable but should be working on the ideas of the theme of the day (as outlined above).  
Period 5 Tutor Time – a central resource will be sent to Year Heads for this session but it will be a time for reflecting on the day and on links to the upcoming general election.

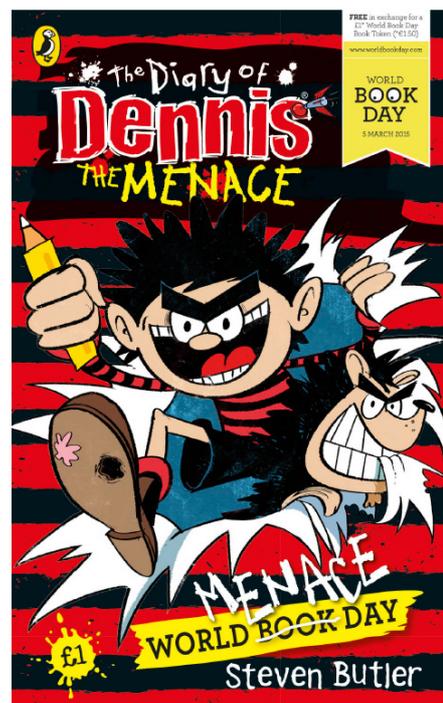
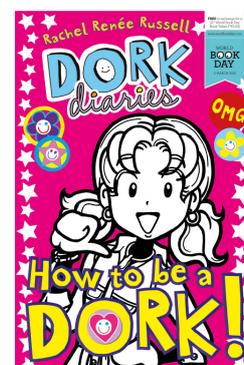
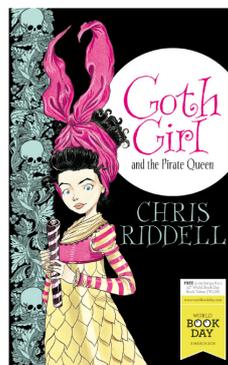
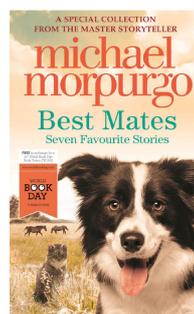
Reps have all relevant information and are forwarding any issues or questions to me as they arise. If you have questions please ask them but also feel free to email me.

**Michelle Springer, PSHCE**

## THOMAS TALLIS LIBRARY

### Free Books - World Book Day

Free books available with your book tokens from participating bookshops!!



## **Jack Petchey Speak Out Competition**

On Tuesday 24 February, 25 Year 10 students took part in a public speaking training day run through the Jack Petchey Foundation and the Speakers Trust. Students learnt how to make an impression and speak on an impromptu topic, as well as preparing a speech and strategies for powerful delivery. At the end of the day the students competed against each other to be the representative for Thomas Tallis at the Speak Out Regional Finals on Wednesday 25 March 2015. All students improved their public speaking skills and many gave truly exceptional performances. The final winner for the school was Jack Mountain of 10JK and the runner-up was Emmanuel Bukoye of 10RZ. A Highly Commended was awarded to Hannah Mills of 10DM.

## **Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!**

As well as these formal awards there are a few honourable mentions that I would like to make. The following students also gave very high scoring speeches and showed huge dedication and perseverance throughout the day.

**Helen Smyth (10AR),  
Lily Page (10JK),  
Jedd Rawlings (10LS),  
Sam Morris (10SK)  
Chloe Wheeler (10SK)  
Morgan Spencer (10SK)  
Issac Linkens (10WL).**

All participants became better and more confident speakers over the course of the day and I was hugely proud of all of all them. They took the challenge of speaking in public and showed great courage in getting up to speak in front of their peers, giving important funny and impassioned speeches.

All will be formally recognised at a Year 10 assembly in the coming weeks. Well done to all involved. Please congratulate any of the students in the list below if you teach them or see them around school.

### **Full List of Participants**

**Harry Little  
Annie Powell  
Helen Smyth  
Haaroon Abdiaziz  
Adnan Reci  
Melis Munir  
Hannah Mills  
Carrie Le  
Ben Mountain  
Lily Page  
Hayley Covington  
Jedd Rawlings  
Georgia Ferris-Choi  
Melody Poole  
Isabel Fletcher  
Emmanuel Bukoye  
Nihal Virdee  
Alan Nguyen  
Sam Morris  
Chloe Wheeler  
Morgan Spencer  
Nariah Hanchard  
Edward Beaumont  
Bethany Tran  
Issac Linkens**

**Michelle Springer, PSHCE**

# Royal Greenwich Teaching School Alliance



## Research and Development Seminar

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Thomas Tallis School

Guest Speaker:

Martin  
Robinson



Author of **Trivium 21C:  
Preparing young  
people for the future  
with lessons from the  
past**

Please join us for our inaugural Research and Development Seminar, the first in a series of regular, termly events.

We are delighted to announce that we will be joined by the acclaimed author, teacher and educationalist Martin Robinson. <http://www.martinrobinson.net>



The seminar is free of charge and will be held at:

Thomas Tallis School, Kidbrooke Park Road, London, SE3 9PX

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015

5.00pm - 7.00pm

To reserve a place please contact Sara Courtney at Willow Dene School  
0208 854 9841 or [scourtney@willowdene.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:scourtney@willowdene.greenwich.sch.uk)

On Wednesday 11 March, the inaugural Royal Greenwich Teaching School Alliance Research and Development seminar will be taking place here at Tallis, and will be led by Martin Robinson, a teacher for 20 years, now a writer and consultant with an interest in how the liberal arts should influence education. Martin will be drawing from his critically acclaimed book, *Trivium 21C: preparing young people for the future with lessons from the past*, in which he explores whether a contemporary trivium (Grammar, Dialectic and Rhetoric) could unite institutions, teachers, politicians and parents in the common pursuit of providing a great education for our children in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The seminar will take place from 5 – 7 pm, is free of charge, and will include refreshments. All are welcome – please do come along.

**Jon Curtis-Brignell, Assistant Head**

# ★ SHOWCASE ★

Students are given Learning Enquiry tasks that they work on over a number of weeks. Students are given a number of options and choices about how they want to present their work. This can be in the form of drawings; models, films and presentations. Students are encouraged to present their work in a way they would like, encouraging independent learning.

**Zara Jaffrey, Performing Arts**

## Year 7 and 8 Drama Homework



In KS3 Drama, students are given opportunities to be creative and approach homework in different ways.

