

OPEN DOORS

Secondary Schools Programme



2025 - 2026

What is Open Doors?

Open Doors is an arts programme delivering free, creative activities across Newark and Sherwood.

Our projects encourage people of all ages and abilities to have fun, connect with their community, and experience something new.

Funded by Arts Council England and delivered by Newark and Sherwood District Council, you'll find our team running activities in museums, libraries, schools, theatres, and other venues across the district.

Our programme includes:

- Pop-up activities
- Theatre, music, and creative arts workshops in our sites across Newark and Sherwood
- Artists in schools and communities
- Professional development for creatives and teachers
- Workshops in schools, tailored to a range of ages and abilities
- Opportunities for young people.

Our sessions are:

- Delivered by experienced facilitators and creative arts experts
- Flexible
- Tailored to your needs
- Fully funded (at no cost to you!)



Our Creative Arts Learning Offer



Delivered by creative professionals, our outreach sessions will boost your pupils' confidence, encourage co-production, support classroom learning, and enable all learning styles to thrive.

We focus on the understanding, enjoyment, and passion of performance. Each full-day, half-day, or single-lesson session meets points of the national curriculum and aims to develop of a love of music, drama, writing and storytelling.

“ An immersive and interactive session, led by knowledgeable and enthusiastic facilitators.

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Key Stage Three

50 - 60
minutes

Play On!

Shakespeare is in the house for "Play On!"

This interactive theatre experience will transport your students to 1611, when the first performance of *Macbeth* took place at the Globe Theatre.

Students will experience the show like a true Shakespearean audience, exploring the customs and manners of seventeenth century England and comparing them to today. They'll discover how actors performed in Shakespeare's time, and how it felt to be part of a raucous crowd.

This session is all about energy, enthusiasm, and engagement. Students should be ready to dress up and enjoy theatre as the Bard intended.

Location: School hall, theatre, or sports hall.

“The sensory aspect of going to the theatre in the 1600s, the placarding of archaic language, and the contextual knowledge of audience tiering and etiquette — all brilliant!”

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Page to Stage

50 - 60
minutes

Designed for pupils in years seven, eight, and nine, Page to Stage is a practical and engaging introduction to some of Shakespeare's most famous plays.

Through games, visual prompts, and interactive drama techniques, pupils will improve their understanding of plot, rhythm, and structure, while strengthening their performance and interpretation skills.

These workshops are ideal at any point in the term, whether you're introducing a play, boosting engagement mid-term, or reinforcing key learning at the end of the year.

Students will be encouraged to think creatively and collaborate, stepping into the characters' shoes and re-imagining the stage as their own.

Location: School hall, theatre, or sports hall.

Choose from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*, or *Romeo and Juliet*.

Key Stage Four

Revision Theatre

Bring exam texts to life with our Revision Theatre learning sessions.

Through drama studio techniques and immersive workshops, your students will dive deep into the heart of their GCSE plays.

They will explore the characters' thoughts, and behaviours, developing a richer understanding of their motivations.

Focusing on pivotal scenes and themes, students will better comprehend the text they're studying and the historical context that shaped it.

Plays offered include:

- *An Inspector Calls*
- *Macbeth*
- *The Crucible*
- *A Christmas Carol*

Location: School hall, theatre, or sports hall.

Revision Theatre can be delivered as a single lesson or extended to a full or half-day session, tailored to your needs.

Key Stage Three & Four

50 - 60
minutes

Commedia dell'Arte

Journey to the streets of sixteenth century Italy and the world of Commedia dell'Arte—where masks come to life, characters leap off the stage, and laughter echoes through time.

Your students will be swept into an energetic, hands-on session bursting with movement, comedy, costume, mask work, history, and creative drama exercises.

Uncover the fascinating roots of this theatrical tradition, and see how its elements still shine in today's theatre and film.

- Meet an unforgettable cast of characters and discover the modern roles they've inspired
- Move, laugh, improvise, and create
- From physical comedy to storytelling, these sessions are designed to keep students engaged, inspired, and entertained!

Location: School or sports hall, theatre, or drama studio.

Sessions can be booked as a one-off experience or as a series, in which pupils focus on developing performance pieces and capturing

Palace Theatre, Newark Learning Week

11 to 15 May 2026

Join us at the Palace Theatre, Newark, for a full or half-day session, featuring:

- Theatre tours
- On-stage drama workshops
- Lessons in lighting design
- A chance to meet the Palace Theatre crew.

Book your place as soon as possible—with only five days of theatre access per year, these sessions are sure to fill up fast!



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I book?

Email us at opendoors@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk or call 07355 675069.

How much do sessions cost?

There is no cost! We are fully funded by Arts Council England and are delighted to offer sessions free of charge to schools and communities.

Can sessions be adapted for my class?

Of course! We are happy to tailor our visit to your needs.

Are activities risk assessed?

Yes. You will be emailed a risk assessment upon booking.

Is your team DBS checked?

Our team have passed enhanced DBS checks and will bring their paperwork along when they visit.



How do I prepare for your visit?

Full details will be included in your booking confirmation letter.

What if I need to cancel a session?

If you need to cancel your session, please contact milly.lawson@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk or denise.greany@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk as soon as possible.

Don't see your question here?

Email opendoors@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk, or call us on **07355 675069**. We'll be happy to answer your questions!

Get Involved

Find out more about our projects, exhibitions, and events at: www.palacenewark.com/opendoors

