

## ALL THE WORLD'S YOUR STAGE

12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018 at Nottingham Girls' High School

This drama-based event for sixth formers worked a treat with the participants who threw themselves wholeheartedly into the fun side. It aimed at practising both writing and speaking. The event was open to any number of students from each school studying French, German or Spanish.

With declining numbers in A Level languages, we wanted to make sure that every student had the opportunity to participate. The students were then divided into language teams of between 4 and 6 students. All the teams were mixed school and were given names from famous theatres.

We were delighted to welcome Dame Rosemary Squire as our keynote speaker. Dame Rosemary attended Nottingham Girls' High School and studied languages at A Level and university. Now Chief Executive of the Trafalgar Entertainment Group, she was instrumental in the construction of the SPACE (the Squire Performing Arts Centre) at NGHS – an absolutely fabulous theatre and performance facility. As well as giving an inspirational speech on the value of languages in her career, Dame Rosemary gave the students tips on how to write a play.



The teams were then asked to write their own short play for performance in the afternoon. The themes were based on A Level curriculum topics. We realise that not everyone wants to shine on stage, so whilst it was encouraged that all took a part, it was not compulsory, and we built in further little challenges for the non-actors so they didn't lose out on practice opportunity. The teams were interviewed in their target language by the 'press' and also partook in a fun drama workshop run by drama expert Becky Valentine-Hagart, to enable them to project themselves better and use body language wisely.



The day was a great success and enjoyed by all those involved. The finished plays far exceeded our expectations with some wonderful performances. We had high drama, pathos, emotions as well as comedy. The winning team, composed of two students from Stamford, one from Oakham and one from NGHS wrote and performed a short comedy about a single mum with two children trying to get to the airport for a flight with everything going wrong. The timing, execution, attention to detail and excellent language made it the outright winner with our theatre critics (all the other students and teachers).

We would like to thank NGHS for the privilege of using the wonderful SPACE for this event. We would also like to thank David Staveley and Claire Selden for being our business advisers, press and sounding boards for the students, as well as Becky Valentine-Hagart for her drama workshop and of course to Dame Rosemary Squire for her inspirational words.



We are very much looking forward to repeating the event in January 2019 and making it a firm part of our repertoire.

### **What students enjoyed most:**

*Meeting new people*  
*Rosemary's talk*  
*Advice from business advisers*  
*Performance workshop*  
*Spontaneous speaking*  
*Having inspiring visitors come in.*  
*Socialising through art.*  
*Seeing the other groups perform.*  
*The script writing*



### **Student comments included:**

*"Fab day"*  
*"Very beautiful school. I really enjoyed this day. Thank you!"*  
*"Thank you! It was nice to do it with other schools too."*  
*"Thank you very much for this event. I really enjoyed every moment. I hope to come back and to do it again."*

### **Teacher comments included:**

*"Lovely place and lovely food"*  
*"Really well done – as always"*  
*"Brilliant Day!"*



### **What the teachers believe the students gained:**

*Using their drama skills in a different setting*  
*More confidence in front of an audience; improve their speaking skills.*  
*Being able to write a dialogue using the target language, combining language and acting.*  
*Confidence to talk in the target language with others.*

### **We would like to thank the following Business Language Champions for supporting these events:**

- Dame Rosemary Squire
- Becky Valentine-Hagart
- David Staveley
- Claire Selden



**We would particularly like to thank Louise Holmes and everyone at Nottingham Girls' High School for hosting this event.**

### **Contact**

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