Year 5 and 6 Shakespeare for Schools Performance – 06.11.19

On the 6th November 2019, after many weeks of rehearsals, 30 students from Loughton School performed Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at Stantonbury Theatre, as part of the Shakespeare for Schools Festival.

The students were very excited to be finally performing on a 'big stage' with professional lighting and sound and they should feel very proud of themselves. We have received positive feedback from the festival director, governors, parents and staff:

'Just wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed last night's show. The children put on such an amazing performance, it's obvious how much effort and support the staff (and children) *have put in. My daughter's drama school fees are a small fortune and yet it was last night's show that she seemed to enjoy the most and was by far the slickest show piece. Brilliant!'* (Parent)

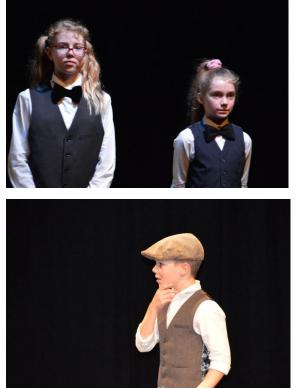 *'I went last night to Stantonbury Theatre and saw the Year 5 and 6 production of Midsummer Night's Dream as part of the Shakespeare for Schools Festival. Two other schools did productions too. Ours was a first-rate production. I spoke to a number of parents afterwards who said it was way beyond anything they had expected. Mrs Vernon deserves huge credit for producing and directing it.'* (Governor)

During our Shakespeare 'journey', the children have grown in confidence, resilience and pride. They have thoroughly enjoyed this creative opportunity to excel and also hone their performance skills and I know that many are eager to continue acting and performing in the future.

 Huge thanks to Mrs Laverick, Mrs Daubermann and Miss Garner for their support and encouragement in ensuring that the children were organised and ready to perform. A very special thanks to the parents for their support, all the Loughton School staff who loaned props and costumes, the office staff for your support, Mrs Gates, Mrs Carter and Mrs Styles who worked their magic with costumes and props, and Mr Whyman for your music tech support - your collective help was invaluable and so appreciated.

Finally, enormous thanks to the entire cast of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' – you all worked so hard, from learning your lines to taking direction – congratulations on such a wonderful and professional performance – you made me very proud!

Mrs Vernon

Appraisal from SSF Director Tory:

'I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to Loughton School for your tremendous production of A Midsummer Night's Dream as part of the 2019 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was an excellent night of theatre, and I'd like to highlight a few aspects that really stood out.

Wow - what a way to finish our evening of Shakespeare. So much energy and passion from every member of this young company of actors. Your level of understanding of these ancient and strange words is well beyond your years. It is clear how hard you have all worked to bring this performance to the stage.

I loved how you defined each group within this world: with the lovely Flapper and Boater for the Lovers, the Military Athenians, the Peaky Blinder Mechanicals and the Fairies in white with their lights who were able to create some beautiful stage pictures. Another group that was utilised was your wonderful narrators, not only servants in your bow ties but you became different locations.

Your selection of recorded music also helped to heighten the changing mood and atmosphere of the play - from Downton Abbey for the Athenian court, Darth Vadar's anthem for the entrance of Egeus and Careless Whisper for everyone who falls in love. You brought so much joy and laughter to the piece, you were able to draw out the humour of this text and create some very funny moments. As a young company of actors, you were able to produce a magical and marvellous Midsummer. Congratulations! P*erforming Shakespeare's words on a professional stage takes bravery, resilience, and creativity. You should be immensely proud of what you and your teachers have achieved in this Season of Infinite Variety.'*