**Welcome Year 11/new sixth form students**. This work has been set by the Performing Arts staff and is aimed at allowing them to find out more about you as a performer and make sure you are ready to get started straight away when we return to school. There is also a task that you will need to perform when you join us in September and some holiday work that we would like you to complete and bring back in September. However, we don’t want this to cause you any undue pressure at the moment and know how difficult things are for some of you. If you have any problems with this work, please contact Tracey Bell by email at [tbell@airedaleacademy.com](mailto:tbell@airedaleacademy.com)

You will also be able to access this booklet through our school web site in the Sixth Form area under Transition Work.

**About You.**

You are unique! Remember that, no one will ever walk in your footsteps, or have you preferences, or look like you exactly. As a performer that is paramount to finding who you are and what is your niche.... so tell me about yourself.

Name.

Date of Birth Age

Height Build

Weight Playing age

Eye Colour Hair Colour

Vocal range.

Your Favourite song from a musical.

Which musical theatre role would you love to play and why?

Your favourite performer.

Your favourite film

Which kind of roles suit you best in your opinion? (ie serious, comedic, romantic, highly characterised)

Out of the three disciplines of Musical Theatre, Acting, Singing, Dancing, List them in order of your strengths and weaknesses.

1

2

3

What do you want to achieve from this course?

What is your Dream?

**Skills audit.** (please note prior experience/grades/certificates/courses)

Technical (sound, lighting etc)

Singing

Dance

Acting

Music Theatre

Theatre/TV work.

**Prepare and Perform!....** for September 2020- you will all be performing this.

Try not to worry about this, we want to get any embarrassment you feel out of the way as soon as we can. You are here to train and learn and one of the best ways to do that is through trial and error. You will find us all very supportive. We work so fast, we don't have time for 'dramatics'!

**1 ) A Musical Theatre Song.**

This must be to performance standard and include movement/characterisation. You can use costume and props if you want to.

You NEED to bring with you the backing track for your chosen song.

**2) A Performance piece that highlights your strength as a performer.**

This could be a dance, or an additional song - contemporary, operatic or musical, or a comedy sketch, a monologue, acrobatic tricks made into a performance, magic tricks, a song and dance etc.

**3) A Contemporary Monologue - post 1950**

The internet is awash with them, just type into Google - eg Male monologue - comedy or classical etc. Make sure you can relate to the material, and take care not to choose 'manic' or all 'anger'. Find something that can show the different facets of the character. No one is one dimensional! Make sure it is age relevant and avoid using anything other than your own accent. Americanisms are a big No, No! We want to hear your voice not a copy of someone else's.

**Holiday Work July/Aug 2020.**

**Please complete on separate paper and hand in in September 2020.**

1) List your 5 favourite Musicals in preference order, with a brief description of why you like it.

2) List the 5 Musicals you dislike in preference order, with a brief description of why.

3) Create a detailed mind map of the key features of a musical. Really think in depth about this.

4) Watch the films 'Singing in the Rain' and 'Hairspray'.

a) Choose two contrasting musical numbers from one of the shows and comment on the style of singing and dance used.

b) Consider three characters from one of the shows. How do the musical numbers they perform in reflect their different characters?

c) How do the musical numbers in the show relate to the plot of the show? Which numbers are reflective and which move the plot along?

5) Research **one** of the following Musicals.

* Les Miserables
* West side Story
* Miss Saigon
* Everyone is Talking About Jamie
* The Witches of Eastwick

Summarise your investigation by producing

* a brief synopsis of the plot
* a brief description of the lead and supporting characters
* a list of musical numbers (indicating if they are solo, duet or chorus numbers)
* an account of any interesting features, e.g. extended dance pieces.

**British musical Theatre.**

Notable musical theatre productions by British writers include :- The Boyfriend; Oliver; Blood Brothers; Billy Elliott; The Rocky Horror Show.

Research **one** of these musicals and answer the following questions.

1) What are the constituent features of the show e.g style of music, use of movement and dance, plot, characters, other interesting characteristics?

2) What are the show - stopping numbers?

3) What is the musical about? Write a brief synopsis of the plot.

**Songbook Musicals.**

Songbook musicals are musicals where a specific artist or groups music is used in the score.

Fill in the gaps below.

Mama Mia .....................................

............................................... The Proclaimers

Daddy Cool ..................................

.............................................. Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons

We will Rock You ................................

................................ Buddy Holly

Never Forget ........................................

.................................... Dolly Parton

**Vocal Music.**

Match the terms on the left to the descriptors on the right by using an arrow.

Solo Low Female Voice

Bass Piece for two voices

Duet Piece of many voices

Alto High Female Voice

Quartet Low male voice

Tenor Piece for four voices

Chorus High Male voice

Trio Piece for one voice

Soprano Piece for three voices

**Styles of singing.**

Suggest the name of a musical that includes the following singing styles.

Pop .........................

Rock ...................................

Operatic .........................................

Jazz ..........................................

**West End Musicals**

What musical theatre productions are currently being staged in London's West End? Are any touring productions visiting your region?

Make a fact sheet about a chosen production. Trying chosen one that you know little about to widen your knowledge. You should include the following information.

Who wrote the music/lyrics?

When was the show written?

Is the production a 'new' show or a revival?

What are the show-stopping numbers?

Write a brief synopsis of the plot.

**Musical Theatre Performers.**

What makes a successful musical theatre performer? The following performers have (or have had) successful careers in musical theatre.

*Julie Andrews; Nathan Lane; Hugh Jackman; Elaine Paige; Liza Minnelli; Maria Friedman; Ruthie Henshall; Michael Ball: John Barrowman.*

Undertake internet research to create a profile of one of these performers.

* If possible include information about their training, their career, the live shows and/or filmed musicals they have performed in
* Find out about the performance skills they are known for e.g are they know mainly for their singing or as a dancer or comedy performer?
* Try to find out how they first became involved in Musical Theatre

**Being in the Chorus. (Ensemble work)**

Watch a scene from a musical that includes a chorus number as well as a scene with principals where the chorus is on stage. Pick out a member of the chorus and pay attention to their performance. Comment on their performance

a) When they are in the thick of the action

b) when they are required to melt into the background while the principals are centre-stage.

**Good luck and we look forward to seeing you soon !**