2025 Student Pack



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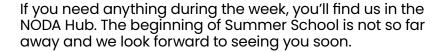
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Welcome to NODA Theatre Summer School 2025

A friendly thespian welcome to the 2025 NODA Theatre Summer School from our Chair, Jacquie, our Director, Sarah, and the whole committee! We know that you are going to have a fantastic week where you will rise to new challenges, meet friends for life and return to the real world feeling equipped and excited to take home a new set of tools for your ongoing theatrical journey!

Whether you're a former student here or this is your first visit, we will endeavour, along with our superb tutors, to give you a week to remember! We are also delighted to offer you a great line up of optional evening classes and fun extracurricular activities to complement your chosen course at our wonderful week of shared skills, training and guidance.





Essential information

Where does the Summer School take place?

The Summer School is held at Yarnfield Park, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 ONL. For more information, including directions see www.yarnfieldpark.com

What time will I need to arrive?

Registration takes place between 2pm to 4pm on Saturday 26th July 2025.

Students on the single Make Up for the Theatre course will need to arrive on Tuesday 29th July after 2pm and in time for the evening meal (6-7pm). Students on the single Costume: Aesthetics and Accessories course will leave after breakfast on Wednesday 30th July.

If you are travelling a long distance (especially if your journey involves a plane) and need further guidance on early or late arrival, or you would like further travel advice, especially if you are coming for the first time, let us know. If you are travelling alone and would like to pair up with other student(s) please contact us.

Contact us

Email: summerschool@noda.org.uk Facebook/Instagram: @nodatheatresummerschool

What to bring to your course and prepare

Click on your course below to jump to the correct page

(How to) Direct Plays

Actors Toolbox

Becoming an Actor Musician

Choreography

Costume: Aesthetics and Accessories

Ensemble: Ease and Excellence

Introduction to Stage Management for Theatre

Make a New Musical

Make Up for the Theatre

Making for Actors / Acting For Makers

Playwright's Retreat

Revelling in Restoration Comedy

Singing for Performance -West End Revivals

Unlocking Schwartz

Voice and Text



(How to) Direct Plays

Chris would like you to bring:

- Comfortable clothing to perform scenes and be directed in
- A copy of Constellations by Nick Payne
- A copy of Romeo & Juliet
- Post-it notes, page markers, varying coloured biros, pencils, ruler
- Notebook

Chris adds:

For Constellations, working off book is fine but you will find it hard to do some of the week's tasks and so we suggest you purchase the Spiral Bound version.

https://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk/s/15092/constellations



Tutor - Chris Tomlinson

Actors Toolbox



Tutor - Tri Cumming

Tri would like you to bring:

- A notebook, pens and pencils, rubber and loose comfortable clothes for movement
- One item of costume it could be a jacket, a cardigan, something that can be taken on and off onstage
- One hat from woolly, beret to straw, bowler or top ANY hat
- One small prop necklace or pocket watch, hand mirror, small book etc
- One copy of The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart by David Greig https://amzn.eu/d/hVNhNvb



Becoming an Actor Musician



Tutor - Sarah de Tute



Tutor - Conor O'Kane

Sarah and Conor would like you to bring:

- Any instruments you would like to play and work with during the week. The more the merrier! Plus, any amps or leads to go with your instruments – please let us know if this is a challenge so we can help you find a solution
- A music stand and any instrument stands to hold instruments while not in use – this is very important.
- Notebook and pencils and pens, an A4 simple 2 hole binder for music
- Spare strings for instruments. VERY IMPORTANT Guitar straps-VERY IMPORTANT for moving with, plectrums if you use them (Guitarists)
- Clothes that are comfortable to move in- We will be moving A LOT
- Water bottle and snacks
- Any percussion instruments you own or have access to

Also, as part of your preparation please watch the films Once and Little Shop of Horrors - We shall be discussing the differences and similarities between them.

And, get familiar with the songs from Once and Little Shop of Horrors.

Choreography

Lynne would like you to bring:

- Comfy, loose clothing
- Dance/jazz shoes (tap and heels optional)
- Plain black t-shirt (no logos)
- Black leggings/joggers
- Bright coloured t-shirt (no logos)
- Yoga mat (useful)
- Knee pads (optional and useful)
- Notebook and Pen to take notes



Tutor - Lynne Bustard

Costume: Aesthetics and Accessories



Tutor - Lu Herbert

Lu would like you to bring:

- · Clothes you are happy to get a little grubby
- Sketchbook and pencils / pens / any art materials you like to use
- · Sewing kit
- · Sewing Machine is optional!
- An item to dirty up (a shirt, skirt, dress etc)
- An item to make bloody and damaged

An accessory such as a top hat or bowler hat, a waistcoat etc.

Ensemble: Ease and Excellence



Tutor - Grace Goulding

Grace would like you to bring:

- Notebooks, pens, pencils, a highlighter for text work and any other stationery you might find useful
- Loose comfortable clothing, we will be exploring non naturalistic movement so stretchy enough active wear to hold all of you in
- A reusable water bottle (Please bring a healthy sized water bottle so to avoid constant trips to fill it up)
- A hand towel or something to wipe sweat, pack additional t-shirts each day just in case
- Sometimes we will be barefoot, sometimes socks and sometimes we'll need trainers so please bring suitable trainers, like what you may wear for running or sport
- Please bring layers, sometimes we will be mobile and still in the same session, so jumpers and socks to keep your muscles warm and layers to take off as we work
- If you have long hair please bring suitable bobbles and grips to tie your hair back
- Yoga Mat



Top tip: forgotten something?

Pop and see us in the NODA Hub

Introduction to Stage Management

Mark would like you to bring:

- · paper, pens, for note taking
- a selection of pencils.
- pencil sharpener
- rubber
- regular 30cm plastic ruler
- small hole punch
- box of ring self-adhesive ring reinforcers (hole in the paper protectors)
- an A4 folder



Please bring with you IF YOU ALREADY OWN, but not essential, as Mark will provide:

 a 12" scale rule, triangular variety. Whatever rule you bring, it MUST contain the scale 1:25, this should be printed clearly on it. Do not purchase one that only has 1:125 printed on it.

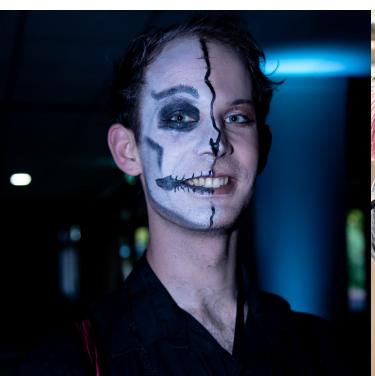
If you have (but to STRESS, don't buy!) and can bring along:

- An adjustable steel tape measure, at least 10 metres.
- If you have (but to STRESS, don't buy!) a 30-metre cloth tape measure

DO NOT BUY THE LAST TWO ITEMS. Only bring it if you already own it!



Tutor - Mark Shayle





Make a New Musical



Tutor - Eva Sampson



Tutor - Pam Rudge

Eva and Pam would like you to bring:

- Notebooks
- Pencils / pens
- Loose comfortable clothing
- An open mind and a warm heart!

Please also bring in at least 2 of the following -

- An image
- An object
- A poem
- A speech and/or
- A song to listen to, not necessarily sing (any genre, but preferably not Musical Theatre)

In addition, please be aware of and give some thought to local, National and/or Worldwide events or happenings that move you, excite you and fire you. Please bring in any of those articles, adverts and/or notices as we will be using them as stimulus for our new musical.

Anything that resonates with you and/or that you feel passionate about in response to the world in which we are living.

Lastly, if possible, go and see a new musical and write down your first impressions immediately after seeing it! Be ready and brave to share your thoughts.

We know you'll be very tempted to, but please do not share your stimulus (cuttings, images, songs etc) amongst yourselves before/during the course. We'd love all discoveries to be made in the room, together. We can't wait to meet you all and are looking forward to a fun-filled, creative week.



Top tip: If some of these courses are intriguing, remember tutors will run evening courses that you can attend

Make Up for the Theatre

Paul looks forward to meeting you on Tuesday evening for your first introductory session for this short course.

Paul would like you to bring:

Note pads and pens

Theatre Make Up differs from everyday Make Up, so if you are new to this, we can provide more information on what to purchase. If you won't have the space or can't afford to buy everything, please let us know as we will have items available for you to use during the week. Bring if you can:

- Foundation
- Powder
- Eyeshadow
- Blusher
- Eyeliner
- Contour colour
- Mascara

Optionally (if you already own):

- Lashes
- Any SFX makeup



Tutor - Paul Herrington

Making for Actors / Acting for Makers



Tutor - Jonny Dixon

Jonny would like you to bring:

- Clothes for messy making that you don't mind getting paint/ glue/ plaster/ latex on
- Clothes to move comfortably in for physical work (plus a plain black top and trousers (no logo) as a puppeteer base costume)
- Select 2 characters (one from a Shakespeare play and one from a Dickens novel) that you'd like to turn into a mask/ puppet and a print-off of a short bit of text to go with them to play around with
- Something of your own choice you'd like to work on creatively (source material of any style/ period/ format – section of a play/ segment from book/ something from a painting, film, piece of music etc. Just something that excites you to explore creatively)
- A bag of character costume bits (hats/ scarves/ tops/ shawls etc.) to add to the mix
- Any quirky props you think would suit a Dickensian/ Shakespearian world!
- A sketchbook/ notebook to be your design/ working book for the week (and pens/ pencils etc.)
- A soft toy that you think would make a characterful puppet (it's going to be cut up so nothing precious/ sentimental!)

Playwright's Retreat

Jasmin would like you to bring:

- Pens
- Notebooks
- Laptops/ipads (if you use them to write)



Tutor - Jasmin Mandi-Ghomi

Revelling in Restoration Comedy



Tutor - Susan Tordoff

Susan would like you to bring:

- A notebook and pen
- Identifying female: a practice skirt and identifying male: a formal jacket – doesn't need to be posh just tailored, suit/ sports jacket kind of thing. These will be add-ons to regular comfortable rehearsal clothing. No problem if you don't have though, we can improvise!
- Fans if you have, I will bring so again no worries if not

In addition

If you are interested, look at art and music in the restoration period, bring a tune or a picture that catches your eye, it would be great to really understand around the time of the plays.

Susan will select scenes from the following plays, all are available online at Project Guttenberg https://www.gutenberg.org.

- The Provoked Wife. Sir John Vanburgh
- Love for Love. William Congreve
- The Way of the World. William Congreve
- The School for Scandal. Richard Sheridan
- The Rivals. Richard Sheridan

You may wish to read the entire script, a synopsis or keep it as a surprise, no pressure either way.

You may also have a favourite play or scene, which you are welcome to bring along.

Singing for Performance - West End Revivals

Marjory would like you to:

Prepare and know (off book) 2 solo songs to perform/work on from the following list of current West-End revivals: Fiddler on the Roof, Hello Dolly, Oliver!, Starlight Express or Cabaret and bring the sheet music for both songs

She would like you to bring:

- A note pad, pen/pencil
- Comfortable clothes that won't restrict your breathing
- Water bottle
- Exercise/resistance band (cheap one will be fine)



Tutor - Marjory Watson

Unlocking Schwartz



Tutor - Jack Bennett



Tutor - Jordan Langford

Jack and Jordan would like you to bring:

- Comfortable clothing suitable for movement and dance (easy to move in)
- A pair of shoes suitable for movement and dance
- A soft, dark pencil and eraser
- A few different coloured highlighters
- A water bottle

In addition:

- Listen to as many of Stephen Schwartz's musicals as
 possible to build familiarity with his writing style, both
 musically and lyrically, from Godspell to Schikaneder.
 Formulate an opinion: just because you're signed up for a
 course about Stephen Schwartz doesn't mean you have to
 like everything he's ever written
- Prepare a solo song, performable from memory, with music and/or lyrics written by Stephen Schwartz for our midweek acting through song masterclass

Please note: There will be a small booklet of music and sides for students at an additional cost, more details will follow

Voice and Text

Rosemary would like you to bring:

- Wear loose, comfortable clothing
- Bring a re-fillable water bottle and something to lie down on-a yoga mat preferable but if you don't have a yoga mat you might want to use a towel or blanket
- Bring a notebook and pens
 Prepare a monologue, poem, sonnet, any piece of text that you would like to practice speaking out loud. Have a printed copy if possible, it doesn't need to be learned but be familiar with it.



Tutor - Rosemary Berkon



Arrival day - Saturday

2pm - 4pm	Student registration	Yarnfield Reception area
5pm	Welcome and school meeting	Knighton Suite
5:30pm	Bar opens	
6pm - 7pm	Dinner	Dining Room
7:30pm - 9pm	Meet your tutor session	Designated rooms
Midnight	Bar closes	

Sunday - Thursday

7:30am - 8:30am	Breakfast	Dining Room
8:50am for 9am	Start the Day the Student Way (Daily updates and warm-up)	Knighton Suite
9:15am	Morning course session	Designated rooms
12:45pm - 1:45pm	Lunch	Dining Room
2pm	Afternoon course session	Designated rooms
6pm - 7pm	Dinner	Dining Room
7:00pm - 7:30pm	Pastoral check in (a chance for students to chat through any difficulties they might be facing during the week)	Outside the Hub
7:30pm	Various extra curricular sessions	Various
Midnight	Bar Closes	



Students on the single Costume: Aesthetics and Accessories course will leave after breakfast on Wednesday 30th July

Evening sessions

Saturday	Introductory course session
Sunday	The Quiz
Monday	Optional evening course
Tuesday	Massage (bookable at extra cost) 8.30pm (ish) Sing-a-long-a-Phil Meet your tutor session for Make Up For Theatre course
Wednesday	Optional evening course Massage (bookable at extra cost) Musical Bingo
Thursday	Student take-over sessions Massage (bookable at extra cost)
Friday	Party Night - West End Wonders Fancy dress optional

Friday

As per Sunday - Friday, except			
3pm onwards	Sharing	Various	
7pm - 8:30pm	Dinner	Dining Room	
	Party Night - West End Wonders	Bar	
lam	Bar closes		

Saturday

7:30am - 10am	Breakfast (early breakfast can be arranged)
Pre llam	Check-out



Evening classes - Monday

Creating a Chorus that Counts

Sarah Osborne

A practical class that looks at how to make the most of this valuable and vital element of performance. We'll explore ways in which the chorus of both musicals* and plays can add depth and detail to the world of the play, add eloquence to stage storytelling and create vibrant visual dimensions to stage craft. We'll even consider scene changes using chorus too! A great class for directors to increase their toolbox of techniques and for actors who want to ensure small parts make a big impression.

*there will be no dance element to the class

Ensemble Singing

Marjory Watson

Singing is good for the soul so come and sing some great ensemble numbers and experience the joy of singing together.

Finding Joy

Jasmin Mandi-Ghomi

This session will explore how to find joy in creativity in an increasingly unpredictable world. Together we will discover what joy actually means and how to make it a tangible part of your creative practice.

General American Accent Workshop

Rosemary Berkon

During this 90-minute workshop you will learn the key features of a 'General American Accent'. We will discuss what makes an accent and explore practical voice exercises that will connect you to your own voice followed by the key exercises to get into accent. General American is widely used and a great skill for any actor's tool kit.

I Have Confidence in Singing

Pam Rudge

Well...if you HAVE, or if you WANT to have then this evening course is for you! We will explore ways and techniques to give you greater confidence in your singing and make nerves your ally, as we have fun celebrating the 60th anniversary of the first screening of Rodger & Hammerstein's iconic The Sound of Music.



Top tip: To pre-register your interest in these optional sessions

Look out for an email sent 2 weeks prior to Summer School. Don't worry if you can't decide as there will still be time to do this when you arrive.

"I've £*@ked up Bigger Shows Than This"

Mark Shayle

Stuff actors, directors and creative types should know to stop the production staff booby trapping your work of Art. How to be "better" at putting on shows in your society.

Page to Stage

Susan Tordoff

A session for actors and directors on character building, making even the smallest of roles into a real, 3D person.

Perfecting Panto

Jack Bennett and Jordan Langford

Getting a pantomime on its feet is easy, but getting it right is another story. This evening class is designed for directors, choreographers, MDs and production creatives who want to sharpen their skills and deliver a panto that's full of heart, humour and style.

We'll explore how to balance tradition with fresh ideas, create a strong and cohesive aesthetic, and keep your production slick, lively and engaging – whether you're working with a shoestring budget or playing to a 900-seat theatre. Along the way, we'll tackle common panto pitfalls: from building stock routines and managing audience interaction, to adapting scripts and handling sensitive or outdated material – essential in a genre that endures because it adapts and responds to modern sensibilities.

The session will be tailored to the group's needs, whether that's refining stock characters, improving comic timing, or navigating copyright rules around using ABBA or Disney songs. If you want your panto to sparkle with laughs, energy and that unmistakable magic, this class will give you the tools to perfect the pace, polish the routines, and captivate your audience from start to finish.

The Art of Storytelling Through Movement and Dance Lynne Bustard

Exploring the art of storytelling through movement and dance. We will look at the different tools and techniques to help enhance and highlight the narrative.

Working as a Set and Costume Designer

Lu Herbert

An opportunity to chat about working in UK theatre and across a range of different genres of theatre. This is a chance to talk about how I approach children's theatre, accessible theatre and sustainable design practices.

As someone who works in opera, musical theatre, plays and children's theatre, this is an opportunity to chat and share ideas together to discuss how to approach different projects and how to make them more sustainable and accessible.

Evening classes - Wednesday

A practical introduction to half-masks

Jonny Dixon

A fun, practical session exploring how half-masks can help you create strong characters, encourage spontaneity & playfulness and work better as an ensemble. Come ready to play!

Basics of Stage Makeup

Paul Heatherington

You'll find out what an essential makeup kit should be with all the equipment needed. This class will demonstrate how to create the basic stage makeup look which will be used in many shows and can be added to dependent on character. The students will have a chance to apply makeup in groups to practice these looks

Confident Acting Auditions

Tri Cumming

All of us hate auditions, on either side of the panel they are awkward and painful and someone is always disappointed. In 90 mins we'll work on some basic skills to make that audition less terrifying, with a practical session and a Q and A to trouble shoot your audition nerves. (Suitable for both Musical theatre actors or actors in plays - if you have an audition speech already feel free to bring it along, if not one will be provided for you to work with on the day).

Let's Read a Play Together!

Eva Sampson

Come and get your teeth into a new play - we'll discuss it, explore it up on its feet and see what we all make of it!

Murdered Mysteriously

Sarah Osborne

Starting with improvisation/devising/character exercises we will work as a company to create a whodunnit in 90 minutes – please don't expect anything serious or deep - this class will be about working together to see what we can create. This is a very practical workshop – expect very little in the way of talk and lots of jumping in and doing stuff.

Perfect for people happy to get involved as actors and performers in a light-hearted and frivolous way

Sing a song, stage a song in 90 mins

Sarah and Conor

Come and enjoy learning a simple catchy song and then putting it on its feet. Feel the power and joy of singing in an ensemble and then putting some simple movement to it to create something fun and fabulous. Come and join us for a light-hearted and endorphin fuelled hour and a half.

Multi rolling

Chris Tomlinson

A fun performance led workshop on the skills and qualities needed to play more than one part in a theatre performance. Participants will explore how to switch between characters through changes in voice, movement, and gestures and have a joyful time while they do!

We Will Rock You

Flashmob! Grace Goulding

Grace Goulding brings her signature organized chaos and joyful mayhem to NODA evening sessions with this Queen classic. Experience choreography, spectacle mass movement techniques and the opportunity to work with inclusive movement practices. This workshop has a very special ending with a pop-up performance complete with Freddie Mercury moustache for all participants!

Link to tashes: https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/332507756158?mkcid=16&mkevt=1&mkrid=711-127632-2357-0&ssspo=bmY6oAvGRDm&sssrc=2047675&ssuid=xznaajcurh2&widget_ver=artemis&media=COPY





Top tip: Find out what you've been allocated by visiting the Hub



Dining at Yarnfield Park

Allergen information is available at the entrance to the dining room. If you have any concerns and are struggling to find time to sort this with the Yarnfield staff, Alex from the committee is on hand to help you.

NODA Theatre Summer School Clothing

Pre-Order your NODA Theatre Summer School clothing for payment and collection on arrival from the NODA Hub. For details on colours, sizes and pricing see the order form.

Order your clothing today by clicking this link





Stage Presence

Exclusive Summer School items from Stage Presence(badges, bags, mugs etc.) will be available to preorder for collection at the NODA Hub.

These items will be advertised on Facebook page NODA Theatre Summer School, so make sure you're signed up to this! If you're not a Facebook user but would like to be informed when items are available, please email info.stagepresence@gmail.com

Meet the team



Sarah Osborne Summer School Director

I'm the School Director – come and chat to me about anything courserelated – tutors, evening classes, or if you just want help figuring things out.



Jacquie Stedman Summer School Chair

I'm Chair of the Committee – come and chat to me about literally anything. Questions, worries, random thoughts – I'm always up for a chat!



Kay Rowan Summer School Treasurer

Come and chat to me if you've got finance questions or want to book one of our lovely pastoral sessions. I'll help you feel at ease in no time.



Peter Oliver Summer School Committee

I'm new, but ready to jump in! Chat to me if you want to book an evening class or a pastoral session – or if you're new too and want someone to figure things out with!



Les Smith Summer School Committee

Lost something? Forgot something? Need a book or want to book a class or session? I'm basically the Summer School lost-and-found wizard.



Phil Barnett Summer School Committee

I'll probably be one of the first people you see when you arrive! Social stuff? I'm in the middle of it. Feeling a bit lost (literally or otherwise)? I'm your NODA sat-nav.



Alexandra BilslandSummer School Committee

Come and chat to me about social stuff, food/dietary bits, or anything that's got you wondering. If I don't know the answer, I'll find someone who does!



Sarah Hall Summer School Committee

We've probably already chatted when you booked – but I'm also a student this year! If you need something, try the hub first... but I'm always around to help too.



Mike SmithSummer School Committee

Come and chat to me about the TOMBOLA! (Yes, it deserves all caps.) Or anything else on sale in the hub – I've got the goods and the gossip.

The Hub

Yarnfield Meeting Room 5

What is the Hub?

The members of the Summer School Team are here to help, so if you require any assistance, please visit us in the NODA Theatre Summer School Hub. It's also where you'll find copies of notices and useful information on where to go for optional activities.

When are you open?

We are open from 8am until 6pm.

What will I find there?

We'll be selling a selection of Theatrical related books (as recommended by your tutors), a selection of Summer School Wear (which you can pre-order) and secondhand music.

Our Tombola which helps us fundraise for extra resources for Summer School.

Stage Presence will have a range of theatrical cards, gifts for purchase. You can also collect your pre-ordered exclusive Summer School items (badges, bags, mugs etc.) here.

Do I need to bring cash?

Payment can be made by cash or credit/ debit card, although you'll need cash for the Tombola. Please note that the Yarnfield Bar and Costa Coffee franchise only accept cards.

Do you need donations? Can I help you with your fundraising?

Please bring along any prizes for the Tombola that you wish to donate to this worthy cause and plenty of cash to buy as many tickets as you like to have a chance to win prizes.

How do I book optional activities?

To book for Headshot photography, please see staff in the Hub. Payment is required when booking.











Is it all work and no play?

Not at all!

The social side is as important as the sessions themselves. The courses are designed to be educational but also fun. Then after classes, there are social events arranged on 4 nights with additional alternative taster sessions on the 2 other nights. However, you will find there are many student-arranged 'not timetabled' after-school events. These can often be the most fun of all but be prepared for these to happen late at night.











Helpful tips from previous students

Things Yarnfield provide either in the room or in the refreshment areas:

Towels, shower gel, a few hangers, Tea bags, coffee, biscuits, juice, water.

Optional things to bring:

- Water Bottle you can refill these in the refreshment area
- Toothbrush
- Shampoo/conditioner & hairdryer
- Tissues
- Bar of soap
- Chargers (For phone, iPad, laptop)
- Extension cable
- Camping washing line and pegs (if you intend washing anything)
- Extra hangers only 6 provided
- Extra pillow
- Over door hook
- Flask for taking fresh milk to room

If the weather is good -

- You will always need more t-shirts than you think.
- Tower fan (the bedrooms do not have air conditioning)
- Cash for the tombola or second hand book stall (there is no cash point at Yarnfield!)
- £2 coins x 2 for the 'Heads or Tails' Games

Other:

The walkways between the rooms and the dining hall and the classrooms are mostly covered.

The dress is casual, very casual in some cases! Comfy shoes are always best. Remember that in the evenings we have optional classes too which require comfy clothes. You may want to get dressed up for the theme night.

Coniston and Windermere blocks have a room on the ground floor of the building which has washing facilities (you need to bring your own powder) and irons and ironing boards.

For up to date information you can always check our social media channels: Facebook/Instagram: @nodatheatresummerschool



See you soon