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Careers in the arts

Teacher guidance



Photo Credit: Northern Ballet



About Grand Futures Leeds Arts Network

Grand Futures Leeds Arts Network is chaired by Leeds Heritage Theatres and brings together arts, heritage and education organisations based in Leeds. The network focuses on developing a more holistic approach to creative skills training and partnership projects to increase opportunities available across the city. Established in September 2014, the network aims to:

- Increase young people's awareness of creative and cultural organisations in Leeds, and jobs available in the sector including:
 - Creative skills
 - Creative job roles
 - Non-performance jobs within the creative sector
- Increase paid and voluntary training opportunities for young people to support the diversification of the workforce
- Create a more agile approach to work experience, placements and volunteering
- Explore and articulate the impact of Grand Futures Leeds Arts Network to raise profile and support lobbying

About the careers in the arts digital resource

Grand Futures, in partnership with Future Goals, has created an online educational resource exploring the world of theatre and arts careers.

Developed by professional arts organisations based in Leeds, the resource will focus on two professional productions: Northern Ballet's *Romeo and Juliet* and Opera North's *Hansel and Gretel*.

The resource will offer students an introduction to the production, the story and the creative process to bring it to the stage. Students will be invited to respond to a number of briefs relating to job roles in the theatre, take on real-world industry challenges, conduct research to support their creative decisions and then present their ideas back to peers.

The resource is designed to be delivered in school by teachers. In this teacher guidance resource you will find:

- Aims of the resource
- Overview of the resource and each brief
- Suggestions for delivering the resource, including medium-term plan
- Links to useful websites and videos to support students' research
- Links to the curriculum and Gatsby Benchmarks

The Resource

The careers in the arts resource aims to:

- **Increase students' awareness and understanding of the wide range of jobs** in the creative and cultural sector, including creative job roles and non-performance job roles
- Use real-world examples and industry challenges to **develop students' understanding of the skills needed by the sector** and to develop these skills for themselves
- Increase young people's **access to high-quality arts organisations and experiences** within the region to engage and inspire
- Provide the opportunity for students to **reflect on their learning and celebrate their success**
- Encourage more students to **consider pursuing a career** in the creative industries

For teachers:

- **Provide access to industry expertise, experience and resources** to enhance skills and confidence to deliver creative engagement in schools
- Support delivery of the **Gatsby Benchmarks**

Resource key audiences:

KS3 (years 7-9) Can be adapted for KS4 (years 10-11)

Curriculum links:

English

Maths

Science

Gatsby Benchmarks:

1. A stable careers programme.
2. Learning from career and labour market information.
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil.
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers.
5. Encounters with employers and employees.
6. Experiences of workplaces.

Using the resource

The resource includes eight different creative briefs, which students can work on individually, in groups/pairs or as a whole class. The briefs can be completed on their own, as a standalone project, or in any combination. Students do not need to complete all the briefs and more than one group can work on the same brief.

Some suggestions are below:

- Students could work in small groups and choose the brief which interests them most, completing in-depth research and development of creative ideas
- The whole class work towards the same brief, completing tasks in small groups and splitting the tasks between them
- Students explore a number of different briefs, tackling just one task from each brief. This could work well for an enrichment day

The creative briefs

Brief levels

Let's get started: Tasks relating to jobs that students are likely to already be familiar with. Can be completed with a small amount of research or explored in greater depth.

Let's learn more: Explore job roles that may be new to students. Tasks require more research and time to fully develop creative ideas.

Let's look deeper: Tasks requiring in-depth research and detailed information.

Linked to Northern Ballet's *Romeo and Juliet*

Brief title	Description	Level
Costume design	Design (and make) a costume for one character	Let's get started
Marketing	Develop a marketing plan to promote the production to secondary school students	Let's get started
Prop design	Design (and make) a prop	Let's get started
Set design	Design a set for one scene and built a prototype	Let's get started
Registrar and collections management	Research and select objects and artworks for an exhibition relating to the production, considering how objects should be stored and cared for	Let's learn more
House management	<p>Consider staffing, bar sales and merchandise for the opening night of the production</p> <p>This brief explores theatre as a business and requires working with detailed information, including finances</p> <p>It would suit students who enjoy working in a methodical and analytical way</p>	Let's look deeper

Linked to Opera North's *Hansel and Gretel*

Brief title	Description	Level
Learning and engagement	Explore how and why theatres work with schools and community groups Design your own activity to introduce families to opera	Let's learn more
Sustainability	Explore how theatres and productions can reduce their impact on the environment This brief would work well as a full-class activity, with small groups taking on different tasks	Let's look deeper

Each creative brief includes:

- An engaging introduction video – filmed by Leeds City College students
- The main task, with suggestions for further research
- Department connections
- Skills developed
- Curriculum links
- Additional resources and links to take learning further

We have also provided:

- A glossary of key definitions. Glossary terms are underlined throughout the creative briefs.
- Research guidance to help students conduct independent research on the production(s).

Suggested medium-term plan

This is a suggested 6-week structure, with each session lasting approximately 1 hour.

However, the resource is designed to be flexible and can be delivered in any way that suits you and your students.

Session	Focus	Suggested activities/resources
1	Introduce the productions Explore the job role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch introduction video • Explore Northern Ballet and Opera North resources to introduce Romeo and Juliet and Hansel and Gretel • Group/whole-class discussions of the role's main responsibilities and skills required • If computers are available, give students an opportunity to independently research job role Useful websites to explore creative careers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get Into Theatre • Northern Ballet: Creative careers • Grand Futures: Student resource pack
2 and 3	Complete research required for task. Depending on the brief, this could be gathering information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an arts organisation • a production • a character • an artwork 	Recap job role and the key skills students will need to use to complete the tasks over the next few sessions Discuss the research task(s) in the brief, highlighting specific points for students to find out Access to computers for students would be helpful for student research as some briefs direct students to specific websites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students to create a document with images and the key information they've discovered during research. This will help support the upcoming creative tasks Useful websites to explore creative careers: <p>Romeo and Juliet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ballet: Romeo and Juliet <p>Hansel and Gretel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hansel and Gretel in a nutshell • Hansel and Gretel school resource pack • Students react to Hansel and Gretel

Session	Focus	Suggested activities/resources
4 and 5	<p>Complete creative tasks. Depending on the brief, these could be design, written or discussion tasks</p> <p>Students create work in these sessions that they will then share and present back in final session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the creative task(s) in the brief with students to outline what they will need to produce (replay introduction video to support) • Some briefs work well with students working in small groups (e.g. sustainability and set design), pairs (e.g. house management and registrar) and independently (costume design) • Students use their research and knowledge of the role to complete design, written and discussion tasks • By the end of this fifth session they should have created a number of documents and be ready in the final session to feed back on their decisions • Encourage students to explain the reasons for their decisions and how their research has influenced their final work
6	<p>Present back work and reflect on decisions and learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap and celebrate the skills students have used in order to successfully fulfil their brief • Students share their documents/ designs/ research with the rest of the class, responding to questions about their decisions • Support students to peer review each other's work, offering feedback and asking questions

This resource has been created with input from professional arts organisations, and we want students to be inspired by the range of high-quality cultural opportunities that are available to them in the region. For more information, visit

[leedsheritagetheatres.com](https://www.leedsheritagetheatres.com)



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