

# WHO ARE DRAMA MATTERS?



Drama Matters came about from a networking weekend that Tracy Dorrington ran to bring Drama teachers together. The aim was to show that we were no longer that single person department. It was a space to share good practice, be a student again, run workshops and debate about the exam boards and changes to our subject. It was also a chance to fight for what we all knew, that 'Drama is key to not only our economy but our life, our soul and of course our children'.

Since then, it has kept a solid profile of running various supportive groups on Facebook for teachers, it also supported other groups to try and challenge the Ebacc which was killing our subject in schools.

It is important to note we are not a charity or affiliated to any organisations. We are also not here to challenge position with the organisations that do exist.

## **We are here to bridge, we are here to support, we are here to build.**

By working with, and alongside, all of those organisations we are able to do exactly that.

In 2019, Tracy decided to step it up again and started to speak with those that were involved and came up with a stepped plan to get Drama on the map in the minds of all, to enable all to see its worth. With a stepped programme in place, which was started with the core people, alongside meeting with Open Drama and NATD, Tracy discussed the key aspects she thought would help our subject with plans of how to move things forward.

### **These were:**

- \* Networking Weekend - which would launch our idea of outreach leaders so we could take our ideas into every county in the UK—April 2020
- \* Links to all areas of the Arts - building a bridge between Teachers/ Education and performers, playwrights, directors, producers, designers, actors, technicians and FOH. Basically, anyone that works within the Theatre Industry in any form. After all, there are no small parts in theatre.
- \* A display of performance outside Parliament - showing our worth
- \* Extra—Curricular for teachers
- \* Support and resources by teachers for teachers.



During lockdown this moved in ways we could not even imagine, it has been truly wonderful, to be able to support and come together.

Since Lockdown, we have gone from strength to strength with the #TTTs Talk Theatre Thursdays, the Drama Matters Student Voice Matters Performing Arts Festival and our Bridge Builders initiative, which were officially launched at the Drama Matters Networking Weekend in September.

Drama Matters now has 30 Bridge Builders which you can check out on page XX and also our website at [www.dramamatters.org](http://www.dramamatters.org). If you see your area is not covered then please do get in touch if you want to get involved.

We have 3 Drama Matters Networking Weekends under our belt and this magazine was officially launched at the 3rd one in September 2023.

We aim to work with all involved in the industry whether it be within education, community, theatre wherever there is creativity and theatre we will do all we can to promote and support. We will not charge for our support, in fact if we are doing something that charges then you will get it at cost or it will be to raise money for arts organisations and initiatives. We are teachers and freelancers who are passionate about our subject and our aim is to make sure that all know its worth and can feel its worth.

One thing is for sure, it's about all of us not just one person - the collaboration and conversations through the TTT's shows so many people have so many strengths and therefore together we can take on all that is thrown at us, you are never EVER alone.

Quite simply, we want to be there for you - an ear to listen, a system to support you, a think tank of ideas. Check out our ethos below.

## ***Drama Matters, why?***

**Because it's powerful,  
it' doesn't just plant seeds, grow minds,  
save minds. It actually has an immense  
power to bring about change.**

**Together, we bring about that change, together  
we hear you, we see you, we are you.  
All of you, never ever the select few.**

[www.dramamatters.org](http://www.dramamatters.org)



Drama Matters - Drama Department Staff Room



@dramamatters1



@dramamatters1

