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INSTITUTION NAME

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“ Digital Theatre+ has been a revelation in shaping engagement with text in our school. It is also quite affordable when the cost is spread across the student cohort ”

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO DIGITAL THEATRE+?

One of my staff found the service whilst researching resources for teaching *The Crucible*. I had a closer look and came to realise that there was considerable potential in both English and Drama for students to engage with live performance of significant plays. I am always hesitant to show the ‘film’ version of the play, but we are a regional school not too far from Sydney and usually the quality productions are hosted by theatres in that part of the state which means an expensive and long day to see a play. Digital Theatre+ could solve the majority of that issue and with COVID in 2020 it became essential.

HOW DO YOU USE DIGITAL THEATRE+?

The Higher School Certificate in English requires a study of Shakespeare (in the Advanced course) or a play (in the Standard course). Hence, our Year 12 students use Digital Theatre+ for their study of *The Tempest* and *The Crucible* whilst in their preliminary year they work through *Othello*. Students in younger years work with *King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, so the service is incredibly useful for our entire cohort. Students use the service to watch in class, at home, or during study and the teacher will use the resources attached to each production for critical study, essential in Year 12.

WHICH RESOURCES DO YOU FIND MOST VALUABLE?

The live productions are key, but the lesson toolkits and study guides are very useful for our syllabus requirements. For Advanced and Extension students, the critical resources are vital and are often the first place we send students to for their critical research. These articles then assist students in finding a pathway to further reading.

Digital Theatre+ is invaluable for our comparative study (*The Tempest* with Margaret Atwood's novel *Hag Seed*) as there is limited time to engage with both texts in the classroom. Students are able to use their study and prep time with the live production of the Shakespeare play to build a personal understanding and response to the play, then come to class fully prepared to discuss the play without needing to push through the language in class.

HOW HAS DIGITAL THEATRE+ HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR CLASSROOM?

Being able to build a complete understanding of much of our syllabus is something that a Digital Theatre+ subscription can assist with. Students are very positive about how it helps with their engagement of Shakespeare and we no longer need to pursue the issue of how language can be a barrier. It has enabled us to free our time in the classroom for deeper engagement with the text.

WHAT MAKES DIGITAL THEATRE+ PARTICULARLY VALUABLE FOR TEACHING ENGLISH AND DRAMA?

For English, it is about ensuring that the elusive texts are brought to life without the difficulty of travelling all day to see a play which may not be a great production. Students are able to return time and again to the production as part of their prep. For Drama, it is essential to see productions as this can inform the response in the theory paper.