**Year 11-12 Drama and Theatre Studies Bridging Work**

**Task 1:**

You will be required to watch a number of theatre performances for the A Level Drama course and answer questions on them in your exam linked to acting, directing and design. Please watch the following NT production of *Small Island* by the National Theatre using their online library. The production is from 2019 and lasts 2 hours 40 minutes.

It covers a 10 year period from 1938 to 1948 and follows the lives of English and Jamaican people as they deal with the events of the Second World war and how their lives inter-twine as a result of the events of the Windrush generation and Jamaicans moving to England (you can watch this either all at once or in shorter sections)

Take notes under these headings:

Set Design

Acting

The link is: <https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/video?docid=do-9781350999084&tocid=do-9781350999084_6146529417001>

Click on *subscription required* and enter the following details:

Username Longbenton

Password: M@cbeth1

***Our Country’s Good***

At the beginning of Year 12 you will be studying a play called “Our Country’s Good” by Timberlake Wertenbaker.The play tells the story of the first convict fleet that arrived in Australia. It deals with the convicts and officers who arrived, some who are based on real characters from history. It focuses on how they are punished but also their attempts to put on the performance of a play called “The Recruiting Officer”.

For your exam you will need to have an understanding of the social and historical background to the play to help with acting, design and direction.

**Task 2: Research transportation in the 18th Century.**

Answer these questions in as much detail as possible:

(use resources from the internet but again write in your own words-don’t print off lots of fact sheets to hand in)

YouTube videos are also available as background information

Why did the British government decide to send convicts abroad ?

Why was Australia chosen ?

What kind of crimes had they committed ?

How long were their sentences ?

How long did the journey take?

When did the first convict fleet arrive?

What was life like for the convicts ?

Who are the aborigines ?

What effect did the arrival of new people have on their lives ?

***Antigone***

**Task 3:** The second play is a Greek Tragedy, Antigone. You can see the highly acclaimed version of Antigone using the National Theatre’s online library.

The link is: <https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/video?docid=do-9781350997684&tocid=do-9781350997684_6120704226001>

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**Task 4:** Research Greek Theatre. Create a power point/goggle slide presentation.

1. What were the theatres like? Entrances, exits, staging?
2. What was the Chorus?
3. How many Actors were involved in a performance?
4. What did the actors wear?
5. How did they use the stage? Which actors were allowed/performed where?
6. Who was Sophocles? Why did he write Antigone?
7. What types of plays were most popular at the time?
8. Why were plays performed? (Look at the Dionysius Festival)
9. What are the conventions of Greek Tragedy?
10. What was the role of women in Greek Society?
11. Explain the significance of the Gods at the time.
12. Why was having an honourable burial important to the Greek people? What were their beliefs?

If you have any difficulties accessing the productions or have questions about the work please e-mail either Mrs Maughan (amg@longbenton.org.uk) or Mr Williams (iw@longbenton.org.uk)