

Go Go Go Joseph! DHS produce a spectacular musical in just 24 hours



Over the weekend of 13th/14th October staff and students at Durrington High School worked tirelessly to put on a musical production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. They arrived at 7am on Saturday and left at 7pm that evening, only to arrive back at 7am on Sunday morning. The performance took place at 5.30pm and finished just before 7pm, meaning that the team had gone from casting to performance in just under 24 hours.

Just to put something together that was vaguely stage worthy and resembled the well-known musical would have been an achievement, but they went way beyond that, putting on an amazing production of Joseph! The cast had learnt their lines, the dancers knew all their moves, the costumes and props were amazing and the whole thing looked and sounded fantastic.

Emily Isham, who came up with the idea and is Director of Performing Arts at DHS said, 'I cannot begin to express how proud I am of these students. Their work ethic, talent and dedication is second to none. We didn't expect to have a cast off book, but they came back on Sunday morning knowing all their lines. What's more they all had smiles on their faces the whole weekend.'

The audience on Sunday night were not sure what to expect but were all blown away, giving a standing ovation at the end. Feedback after the production was overwhelming positive with parents saying '*What can I say other thanWOW..... what a weekend and what a performance*' and '*My girls were literally buzzing afterwards – they loved every single second of it.*'

The students all really enjoyed themselves, many of whom have only been at the school for 6 weeks. As well as raising money for the schools Rock Challenge production (via sponsorship) the weekend was hugely beneficial to students as they gained confidence, made new friends and felt a fantastic sense of achievement. This production was a clear example of the schools 'going beyond our best' motto in action.

Many thanks to the staff involved, in particular Mrs Isham, the performance director and Mr Dean, musical director, who pretty much played the piano for two days straight, and his wonderful page turner /costume maker Miss Hewett. Thank you also for the invaluable help of Mrs Wallis-Taylor, Miss Wolstenholme, Mrs Bowden, Ms Graney, Mrs Owen, Miss Cross, Mrs Chaitow, Miss Hughes and Miss Hodnett.

