

In association with Milton Keynes Theatre of Comedy



# **Our offer to Schools**

Are you teaching an historical period and need a hook into the subject or something special for your 'dazzling debut' or 'fab finale'?

Want to save on the time and expense of arranging an external visit by bringing history into your school?

We can bring the topic to life and make a lasting impression with a costumed historical character in your classroom.

A typical session can last up to an hour for one or more combined classes.

Our costumed character will introduce themselves and describe their daily life and the world around them, the clothing / armour they are wearing and any accessories and weapons that they are carrying.

There will then be time for 'hot seat' questions and answers where your students can pose questions to our performer who will stay 'in character' throughout and further develop your student's understanding of the period.

We finish with opportunities for photographs and supervised handling of weapons and props (if applicable).

Our focus is making the experience both educational and fun and your students will be talking about it for months to come!

# Additional materials

We will provide you with:

- An **introductory sheet** (PDF for you to copy) in advance of the session which has a set of prompts and suggested questions for the students to pose to your visitor.
- A short **PowerPoint slide deck** of key facts that will be used during the character's visit.
- A short **Multi Choice quiz** paper (PDF for you to copy) so your students can test themselves on the new facts they have heard and reinforce the learning.

We can discuss with you in advance any specific learning outcomes you need to include.



# Our team

Each of our team are experienced historical educators and actors used to improvisation and staying 'in character' with a keen interest and knowledge of the historical period. They'll have a wealth of fun facts and details to share which will create lasting memories for your students.

# **Periods and Characters**

- Ancient Greek Hoplite (KS2)
- Roman Legionary (KS2)
- Anglo Saxon Warrior (KS2)
- Viking Warrior (KS2)
- Norman: William the Conqueror (KS1)
- Medieval Knight or Monk (KS1)
- Tudor: Henry VIII or Queen Elizabeth I (KS2)
- Stuarts: Guy Fawkes, Charles II, Nell Gwynn (KS1)
- Victorian: Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale (KS1)
- World War I: British Army Officer (KS1)

If there is another specific era or character you would like to see, please discuss your requirements with us!

### Terms

- We operate within a 20 mile radius of Milton Keynes.
- Visits further afield may be arranged subject to availability and additional travel costs at 45p per mile.
- Your staff must be present throughout the session(s) to manage the students.
- All our performers have DBS certification.
- We are covered by Public Liability insurance up to £5m.
- Please discuss your requirements to obtain a quote.

### **Contact Us**

Please contact **Steve Clark on 07588 383939** or by email <u>steve.clark@mktoc.co.uk</u> to discuss your requirements and see how we can take the 'mystery out of history' for your students!



# **References / testimonials from Milton Keynes Schools' teachers:**

#### Hanslope School

'Steve was extremely knowledgeable and made the whole experience enjoyable for both children and adults. We had parents join us for the afternoon session and Steve adapted his plans quickly and efficiently to involve them in the activities. All feedback received was positive. Both parents, school staff and children went away having learnt a great deal and are ready to begin our Roman topic after a wonderful 'Wow' start! Thank you again, Steve.'

#### **Slated Row School**

'Steve came to Slated Row to talk to two of our KS3 Sensory classes about what it may have been like as a soldier in World War 1, as part of our topic on WW1 in Humanities. He was dressed in period costume and brought a number of artefacts to show the children; entering the room in character as an army officer. The children were very receptive and excited to see History come alive. Steve was engaging and the children listened well and with understanding, despite their learning difficulties. The session was made appropriate and where necessary, Steve was able to make allowances for any small disruptions which arose from some of the children.

When given the chance, the children came up with some of their own questions, which Steve answered at an appropriate level, giving the children the chance to fully understand what was being said. He was patient with them all, even if their question was rather jumbled and needed rephrasing by an adult and he took time to alter language that may have been quite tricky at their level. Steve's knowledge of what life may have been like in the trenches was extensive and he managed to make a difficult subject really interesting for all the students. Some of the more able children explored the documents he had brought in more depth and were excited that they could see real and realistic artefacts. They really enjoyed the afternoon and most chose it as their favourite part of that week's learning!

I would thoroughly recommend Steve as an exciting presenter of Living History in schools.'

### Willen Combined School

'We've been working with Steve for several years now. We got to know him as a parent, when his children attended our school. Steve has many talents and a passion for theatre and history. He has 'become' many characters in History for us - a Roman Legionary, a Greek, a Tudor Noble, an Anglo-Saxon, a Viking warrior and even a Beefeater from the Tower of London celebrating the Platinum Jubilee. He has all the appropriate costumes and the props and has been an excellent hook to introduce new History topics to our classes, as he comes in already dressed and acting in role. He does a short presentation and then the children get to interview him. He also lets them handle or try on the artefacts and have their photo taken with him. The children learn so much from his visits and these inspire them to learn more.'



# Pictures from previous visits:







