

## Inspiring the Future of Theatre

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Contents

Questions about the campaign .....	2
What is Inspiring the Future of Theatre? .....	2
Who is Inspiring the Future of Theatre run by? .....	2
How does it work? .....	2
I am a teacher / governor - how can I get my school or college involved? .....	2
I am a teacher and we don't have a theatre in my area, but would love to take part – what should we do? .....	2
My child is interested in working in theatre. Where can we find more information? .....	3
Questions about volunteering .....	3
Who can be a volunteer? .....	3
What age children will I be working with? .....	3
How am I matched with a school? .....	3
Where and when will I be needed? .....	3
Do I need to be DBS checked to volunteer? .....	4
How much time will it take up? .....	4
Can I volunteer at my old school or college? .....	4
I am having difficulties with the sign-up process. What do I do? .....	4
I have signed up to be an Ambassador – what happens next? .....	4
Are there any resources I can use to help me prepare for volunteering? .....	4
I have signed up, but I haven't been invited to any events. Why not? .....	4

## Questions about the campaign

### What is Inspiring the Future of Theatre?

Inspiring the Future of Theatre is a campaign that aims to:

- showcase the range of careers available in theatre to young people, to build the future workforce
- encourage and strengthen connections between schools and their local theatres
- build audiences of the future

Theatre and the performing arts are part of the creative industries, which are worth £101.5bn, and are growing at almost twice the rate of the economy. We believe that if the sector is to continue to thrive, it must draw on the talent base, and build audiences, from all areas of society. That's where you come in.

### Who is Inspiring the Future of Theatre run by?

Inspiring the Future of Theatre is a partnership between charity [Education and Employers](#) and theatre membership bodies [Society of London Theatre](#) (SOLT) and [UK Theatre](#). It forms part of SOLT and UK Theatre's [Workforce Development Strategy](#).

### How does it work?

There are three parts to this project:

- Volunteers:** We are asking our colleagues across the industry to volunteer as Inspiring the Future of Theatre Ambassadors. Once [signed up](#), Ambassadors will be invited to careers events in local schools.
- Flagship events:** During the first year of the campaign, UK Theatre, SOLT and Education and Employers are coordinating careers events in schools and theatres around the country. We have chosen areas prioritised for social mobility and cultural educational development, as well as holding events Scotland, Wales and London.
- #InspiringFutureTheatre day:** 11 July 2018 was the inaugural #InspiringFutureTheatre Day. Many of the country's theatres, arts organisations and industry professionals shared their own inspirations, education work and career success stories. Check out some of the [social media highlights from the day here](#). Join us again on social media on 3 July 2019 and use #InspiringFutureTheatre to tell the industry what you do to engage young people, communities and schools.

### I am a teacher / governor - how can I get my school or college involved?

[Register](#) your school or college on the Inspiring the Future platform and give some details about what kind of activities you'd like to do in your school.

### I am a teacher and we don't have a theatre in my area, but would love to take part – what should we do?

We are aware that not every town or city has a local theatre, and we wouldn't want this to be a barrier to your taking part. Please [email Annie](#) to discuss what might be possible.

## My child is interested in working in theatre. Where can we find more information?

There are several resources that could help. These include:

- Get into Theatre <https://getintothetheatre.org/>
- Creative Choices <https://ccskills.org.uk/careers>
- TheatreCraft <http://www.theatrecraft.org/>
- Official London Theatre <https://officiallondontheatre.com/inspiring-future-theatre/life-backstage/>
- The Stage Newspaper <https://www.thestage.co.uk/>

## Questions about volunteering

### Who can be a volunteer?

Volunteering to be an Inspiring the Future of Theatre ambassador is open to absolutely everyone in the theatre industry at every stage of their career, from all over the country and in all career paths. We'd love to have you!

The aim is to tell young people about the broad range of theatre careers available to them and build a strong network between ambassadors, schools and theatres. If you work in the theatre industry, your experience is useful to a young person.

### What age children will I be working with?

Secondary schools and colleges are signed up to Inspiring the Future, so you could be working with young people aged anywhere between 11 and 18, depending on the specific event.

### How am I matched with a school?

Once you have [signed up](#) as a volunteer, your details are logged on Inspiring the Future's volunteer database. Schools registered with Inspiring the Future can then go onto their system and search for volunteers in their area. If they feel you are a good match for an event they are holding, they will email you to invite you to attend. If you can't make it, that's not a problem, you can decline the invitation.

You can also search for opportunities yourself, by logging in to the [Inspiring the Future website](#) and selecting 'Manage Opportunities'.

### Where and when will I be needed?

You will be invited to events schools are hosting as and when they occur, throughout the academic year. If you can't attend, that's not a problem, you can decline the invitation.

You can also search for upcoming opportunities yourself, by logging in to the [Inspiring the Future website](#) and selecting 'Manage Opportunities'.

### Do I need to be DBS checked to volunteer?

You do not need to be DBS checked as you will not be alone with students. Schools are experts on child protection and they choose who has contact with their students.

### How much time will it take up?

This depends on how many event invitations you choose to accept, and the type of events you attend. You could be participating in a 30 minute assembly, or you could be at a careers fair for half a day. Please bear in mind that you can accept or decline event invitations as necessary.

### Can I volunteer at my old school or college?

When you sign up as a volunteer, you can select your old school or college from a search list if you are interested in being approached to go back as part of an Inspiring the Future activity.

Please note that only state schools are eligible to participate in Inspiring the Future.

### I am having difficulties with the sign-up process. What do I do?

The Inspiring the Future website is optimised for Google Chrome, so please make sure you are using this browser. If you are using Google Chrome but are still having issues, please call the Education and Employers team on 0207 566 4880.

### I have signed up to be an Ambassador – what happens next?

You will be contacted by a school with an invitation to participate in an event. The type of event will vary depending on the school and could be anything from a school assembly to a careers fair. You may be contacted by more than one school. If you are available, you can accept the invitation and from then on will then be in direct contact with the school.

Please be aware that you may not be contacted by a school immediately, particularly around school holidays. Please be patient – we all know how busy teachers are!

### Are there any resources I can use to help me prepare for volunteering?

We have created a [guidance pack](#) to provide you with a variety of resources and practical ideas. Feel free to adapt as is useful to you. It also contains basic advice and guidance on delivery to young people.

The school may be very specific about what they want from you, for example if they are asking you to fit into an existing event they have planned. Alternatively, you might have flexibility to creatively plan your session. It depends what type of event you are invited to.

If you'd like any further advice, please email [Annie Waugh](#) or [Harriet Usher](#).

### I have signed up, but I haven't been invited to any events. Why not?

Please be aware that you may not be contacted by a school immediately, particularly around school holidays. Please be patient – we all know how busy teachers are!

If you haven't been invited to an event after several months, we recommend [logging in](#) to the system and updating your profile with more information about yourself.

Read Education and Employer's [practical advice and tops tips](#) on writing your profile. There is other useful advice for maximising the number of invitations that you receive from schools/colleges and making the most of your school visit in the [resources section](#) of their website.

**Have another question or need more information? Please email Annie Waugh ([annie@soltukt.co.uk](mailto:annie@soltukt.co.uk)) or Harriet Usher ([harriet@soltukt.co.uk](mailto:harriet@soltukt.co.uk)).**