



Image by Marc Brenner

Dear England

Free National Theatre Schools Programme

**National
Theatre**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

A free, creative learning offer for Key Stage 3 & 4 students delivered as part of the NT's UK-wide tour of James Graham's Dear England.

Through September 2025 to March 2026, the National Theatre will mark its Dear England tour with a major new schools' engagement programme.

This NT schools project will run alongside the tour of the show, visiting schools in the 16 tour areas, working directly with thousands of young people. In partnership with DCMS and partner theatres including xxx theatre, the National Theatre invites schools to take part in a programme focusing on Dear England. The schools programme also takes inspiration from James Graham's film celebrating VE Day: The Next Morning, and prompts your students to reflect on the legacy of the Second World War and their own place in history, just as the footballers in Southgate's squad were encouraged to do. It provides a powerful opportunity for secondary school students across the country to reflect on our shared past and shape the future.

As young people in 1945 woke up the morning after VE day reflecting on their hopes and aspirations, so we will ask your students:

What do you want for all of your next mornings?



Men and women of the US army in Japan, following the formal surrender of Japan on 2 September 1945.

Image: Everett Collection Historical / Alamy Stock Photo

Curriculum Links:

This cross-curricular programme supports:

- **History:** Legacy of World War II, VE Day and Remembrance Day, social change, nationality, social and economic British history
- **English:** Spoken word, reflective writing, oracy, playwriting
- **PSHE/Citizenship:** Identity, aspiration, community, nationality, shared endeavour
- **Drama:** Performance, devising, playwriting,
- **PE:** Community, collaboration, teamwork



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What's on offer for your school:

- Subsidised tickets to bring your students to see James Graham's sell out show, *Dear England*, at Chichester Festival Theatre on 20 – 29 November 2025
- A free teacher-led assembly supported by specially commissioned audio and spoken word pieces
- Free facilitated workshops and assemblies, delivered by National Theatre artists in selected schools (we can offer up to two workshops per school for groups of up to 30 Key Stage 3 or 4 students in any of the above subject areas)
- A provocation to write a letter to the future which may be incorporated into the final time capsule
- An invitation to submit a contribution for consideration in a national audio time capsule – capturing students' hopes, dreams and visions for 2105 to be showcased on the National Theatre website

The Next Morning looks backwards to the hopes that young people had for themselves and their country in 1945, and the schools engagement programme will look forwards, asking young people now about their hopes for themselves and their country. Across these twinned halves, the project will animate and connect the stories and voices of young people from 1945 and young people from 2025.

This is a unique opportunity to centre young people's voices in a nationwide project, placing their hopes in dialogue with the past and the future.

To have the *Dear England* Schools Programme in your school please contact your local partner theatre:

Email schools@cft.org.uk

Number **01243 781312**