

## Weekly Blog 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019: An Amazing Alice



On Wednesday I was privileged to experience the opening night of this year's annual musical 'Alice in Wonderland'. As a drama teacher myself, show week is always a highlight in the school calendar and the cast and crew of this extravaganza have not disappointed with this masterclass of theatrical mayhem.

From the opening moments we can tell we are in for something special, with the wonderful set, thanks to Mrs Pudge, Miss Bell and Mr Baxter. This combines with dynamic projection setting the scene for the magical journey of discovery upon which Alice is about to embark. The show opens with Alice falling into a very strange sleep! Emilia Brewster gives an exceptional performance as Alice, capturing all of her confusion, fascination and excitement throughout her many adventures. This is Emilia's first lead performance at Coleshill and she is already a superstar.

Over 70 students from across the year groups make up this incredibly talented cast and it was a real joy to see all of the characters performed with such professionalism and skill, from the rapping White Rabbit played by Joe Smiley, to Georgia O'Neill's wicked Queen of Hearts and all the quite crazy characters in between. This is a real ensemble performance, with every student playing their part; we are very proud of all them all.

I was thrilled to see our very own musicians in the orchestra pit, playing all the music live. This has been an ambition for some time and all credit goes to Mrs Burroughs for her work with these students in nurturing and developing them. Special thanks goes to Ginevra Paniati who has come from the Birmingham Conservatoire to play as our pianist for the show.

Back in the day I would have spent show week sat behind the lighting desk, organising things and supporting the students to make the technical magic happen. Now I am delighted to see students completing running every element of the show. Joe Hoston has done a phenomenal job as Technical Director, which is an astonishing achievement when you consider he is Year 10! Joe has set up the lighting, organised the sound and is running a proficient team of students to ensure that everything runs smoothly on the night. A special mention also to our Stage Manager extraordinaire, Becky Brown. This is Becky's third show in charge back stage and we are not sure what we will do when she leaves at the end of this year, after finishing her A Levels. I am sure you will agree she has done a very professional job.

Finally a thank you to our fabulous drama teachers, Mrs Howell and Miss Scattergood. Their dedication and artistic vision continues to astound me and gives our students the opportunity to develop their performance skill. When thinking about us drama teachers I think the Mad Hatter sums it up perfectly 'We are all mad here!'



