



ST FRANCIS SCHOOL SPEECH AND DRAMA CLUB

SUPPORTER OF THE NATIONAL OPEN YOUTH ORCHESTRA

(£1.50 of each membership will be donated to NOYO)

<https://noyo.org.uk/>



St Francis School (in school) **Speech and Drama Club** will recommence in the 2022 Autumn term on Thursday (and some Wednesday) lunchtimes (OR after school 3.30 to 4.40 – post October half term) for up to six max) for years 1 to 6 when the children will work towards **Poetry by Heart /CliPPA** 2022/23 (free NATIONAL competitions for schools), the **Reigate and Redhill Music and Drama Festival** (May, International Oratory (online in own time) Festival (optional) and **LAMDA/ NEW ERA Exams** (Introductory, Entry/Grades in Verse and Prose Reading for Performance Acting,, Shakespeare ,Public Speaking and Mime) (optional except those with exam scholarship). Mrs Shannon also hold alternate week end of day group sessions with all Reception to Year 2. At the end of the Academic Year a Showcase of work done throughout the year in the club is presented to parents.



This is a non-selective club open to all the aims of which are to support and develop

- **life skills**
 - **clear communication,**
 - **self-confidence and**
 - **teamwork (through Group work more confident children work with less confident children to mutual benefit)**
- through the creative platforms of poetry, drama, literature and (with KS1) traditional nursery rhymes and songs to
- **improve self-expression;**
 - **strengthen memory;**
 - **support literacy (including through Write and Speak Your Own Poem/Story and a holiday author research project);**
 - **give a sense of achievement to pupils and parents/carers alike through supporting each child to achieve their own very best**

COACH - Mrs Beverley J Shannon BA (Performing Arts), LTCC (Dist), GMLAM, LAMDA Merit Certificate (Reading for Performance) Silver Medal (New Era) NCFE/CACHE Supporting Work in Schools (L3)

Mrs Shannon embarked on her dance training age 7 with Bette Clarke in Hamilton, Scotland before continuing with Molly and Mary Richardson at the **County School of Dancing, Reading** in ballet, acrobatic, tap/modern, ballroom/Latin drama (LAMDA/New Era) festivals and shows. As part of her degree. she worked with children with a range of disability and learning difficulties. As a member of the **Covent Garden Minuet Company** Mrs Shannon has performed in full period costume in educational workshops/events in historic houses and castles in UK (eg National Trust/HET/Cheltenham Ladies College/Royal Academy and overseas, including USA. She has extensive experience on stage and behind the scenes in plays/ musicals/ opera/ panto/music hall/choral singing, taking many leading and supporting roles. She believes that the arts and sport should be available to all and not on the basis of being able to pay.

Mrs Shannon began coaching **St Francis children in speech and drama in 2007** when her daughter, Francesca, was in Year 1, building up from class poetry and reading recitals using the LAMDA progressive approach to developing the vocal and facial skills required for acting. Since then, St Francis children have won many awards in all areas of the **Reigate & Redhill Festival** Speech and drama section. the national **Poetry by Heart** Competition as well as high marks in **LAMDA** exams, which she introduced into the school in 2018 following an intensive course on exams at LAMDA. In 2022-3 she will be adding the option of **New Era Exams** which offer special exams path for children with learning difficulty as well as those preparing for interviews. During pandemic lockdowns two St Francis pupils (Nithali and Chloe) became the **Poetry by Heart Primary School National Finalist for Surrey** (2020 and 2021 respectively) at the **Globe Theatre, London** and in July 2022 Year 2 Pupils Isla, Francesca and Hollie won the **CliPPA Poet Shadowing Scheme** performing their winning recitation at the world renowned **Queen Elizabeth Hall** on the South Bank. Numerous St Francis children have performed in the **Festival Winners** concert at The Harlequin as well as achieved drama scholarships to independent schools. Mrs Shannon is supported in her Zoom and mock exam work by Mr David Lawson Lean, an experienced performer, drama coach, teacher director, and playwright as well as her daughter who has just completed her second year BMus at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (Violin), In addition to learning recorder, piano and flute at St Francis, Francesca trained in all areas of dance from the age of 4, is a Ballroom/Latin champion and a Blackpool and Cardiff Varsity Team Finalist.. From age 7 she also trained in all LAMDA fields, holds a LAMDA Gold Medal and was a Festival medallist in Speech & Drama and Music

NB The ANNUAL £20.00 charge (£7.50 p.t. after school (+4.50 for siblings) is merely a contribution towards club expenses (eg paper/certificates/copying). Mrs Shannon contributes her time and awards voluntarily but no child is excluded on the basis of finances. Contact Mrs Shannon at faboshannon@hotmail.co.uk for more information giving clear contact details as well as name of child. year group/class teacher . (OR Tel 07594 692853 July until October leaving clear message

