

100% of participants felt that Whispers was a unique arts project and unlike anything they had experienced before

- It was completely unique. I had never done anything like it before
- Different because of challenge given resources and what was achieved
- We wrote our own songs and I have never seen a ww1 love story play
- It was all produced by children with the help of some amazing experienced people which made the experience a high quality production
- It involves the audience a lot more and was more fun to watch

'It was made by us'

- Because most of the show was put together by kids
- Not many places have sight specific open for people of our age to try
- You don't really find many sight specific theatre projects and I think that it was really great how the management team let the children plan most of the show out where normal arts projects may have already been set out in a certain way.
- We all got to actually make the show, rather than just being given a script. Also it had a long duration! Which was amazing

'It was a real community - completely run by us!'

- Being run by children, it was very fun and nice to work with people around my age.
- Everyone was involved with everything - I got to do some prop and costume making. It was also different as there wasn't too much influence from adult - we managed to create the show mainly ourselves.
- It was done by us
- It was made by everyone involved, we were organising ourselves instead of being instructed and pressurised. We had more opportunities to express ourselves
- In many other productions it's " here's a script learn them then perform" but with whispers, you get to start from scratch and make something new and interesting, something never done before.
- We were so involved in all the decisions and the actual project

'We had complete freedom with the project and nothing felt impossible'

- Site specific is a very unusual way of performing and it was exciting for both the audience as they were able to interact and take part in the show, as well as the cast. Also being run by youth is unlike any other "youth" production, whilst there are theatres that use youth, I don't know any that are run by the youth. Whispers is unique!
- It was different because we got to do it all (mostly!) And so it was great to say that we'd made a show completely from scratch.
- It was about the children doing it
- Site specific, not many projects I have heard of are site specific!!

- It was site-specific and it was different.
- Site specific and kids took control!
- Because we got to help with behind the scenes as well.

'It is completely original and that is because we created it ourselves'

- It's run by kids. And it's not just like it's a young cast even the scripts and music was made by people under 18
- It was a site-specific theater setting and it was completely created by young people
- It was all original content.

Why did you sign up to Whispers?

'I felt quite shy and bored and wanted to try something new. So I decided to join. In the end I found out I can be more confident, and I can perform! Right now, I'm too bubbly and excited to do so many things! It's probably slightly changed my life!'

- Because I love acting and to develop existing skills. I also thought it would be great fun to try something new and make new friends.
- Develop existing skills and meeting mentors and contacts
- I signed up for Highbury Whispers because I wanted to improve my confidence and to enjoy myself whilst I was doing it.
- To try something new and to gain confidence
- To try new things and meet new people with the same interests as myself but some with others and gain my confidence around those people
- Just to improve my skills in all of the different areas e.g. acting, singing And to receive a professional's opinion on my skills
- To enjoy myself mainly, and I wasn't doing many other clubs so I thought I'd give it a go.
- To develop new skills, make new friends and gain confidence
- To try something I hadn't done before and to gain experience while doing so.
- I first signed up to HW purely because I loved acting and wanted to work on my triple fret skills, such as singing.
- To try something new and work with people in the industry.
- Because I wanted to explore new skills for backstage work
- I didn't know what I was in for and I just went to enjoy myself
- I wanted to try something different as I have never been a part of this kind of project before.
- I signed up to Highbury Whispers because I wanted to try something new and to gain confidence from doing things out of my comfort zone - I also wanted to meet new people and have fun as well.
- To develop new skills and to meet new people, I like the arts and wanted to expand my knowledge and expertise
- To try something new
- To develop new and existing skills, meet new people, stretch myself and have fun.
- I felt quite shy and bored and wanted to try something new. So I decided to join. In the end I found out I can be more confident, and I can perform! Right now, I'm too bubbly and excited to do so many things! It's probably slightly changed my life!
- I wanted to gain skills, perform and gain some of my confidence back
- I joined as I wanted to do some acting as it is one of my true passions, however, I was able to do so much more than act which was so much fun

- Develop skills in the arts
- To work on my acting and singing skills
- Having played in orchestras for a while I wanted to try a new style of music.
- To become better at working in teams and increase my confidence.
- I signed up to Highbury Whispers because I was interested in how we could make a show! I also wanted to make more friends (which I did!) And have fun sharing the same ideas and connections with others.
- To learn how to put on a show and the difficulties and easier parts to making a performance out of nothing
- I wanted to try some thing different than performing on a stage
- I signed up to Highbury Whispers because I enjoy acting and singing and I was excited to have the opportunity to perform with a group of amazing people! I was hoping to gain more confidence from Highbury Whispers and I definitely did!
- I was interested about it's concept from the start. I thought that handing everything over to young people was a great idea, and I wanted to be involved.
- To learn new skills and I thought I would enjoy it. A few of my friends were doing it so I wanted to do it with them
- We had an assembly and I wanted to take part as I was so different and a few of my friends were doing it too
- To try something new as it wasn't a project I would have considered doing before. It was to also improve my lighting and music skills too
- To gain performance experience.
- To perform

98% of participants feel they learned new skills through the project

What were those skills?

- Team skills, acting and singing development
- How to put out my ideas and being inspired by a story.
- Art skills
- Feeling comfortable acting with others with realistic emotion and not feel stupid
- I learned how to sew with a machine and learned how to improve my acting skills
- To be confident when performing
- How much goes on behind the scenes of putting on a production
- Before going into the show I had experience with performing arts but none of the production roles (backstage team)
- Directing, Writing
- Presenting ideas and making them happen
- I have learnt what it's like to play in quintet
- I learnt more about percussion and also what it is like to work as part of a big production. I also learnt about prop making as well.
- Percussion
- Socialising, collaborative working, costume designing, choreography, advertising and organising
- I have learnt a lot about site specific theatre and how to make the most of a smaller space.
- Confidence

- I learnt how to flexible and adaptive depending on the environment as well as being a musician being able to support but not overpower the singers.
- I've learn the lots more about composition and how the whole production fits together
- Communication and quick thinking
- I've overcome stage fright, before whispers I was extremely nervous to perform in front of people, but now I am confident!!
- Acting, performing, working as a production team
- The art of organising a theatre company
- I've learnt about everything production!!!
- I learnt that a lot more goes into a show than what the audience see
- In general how to make a production (I have done nothing like this before)
- Leadership, Lighting a Site-Specific Theatre
- The process of a walk through performance

98% of participants felt their confidence had increased by taking part in Whispers

How did your confidence increase?

- At the beginning I didn't know anyone but once settled into the role and once I understood what the role was about it gave me confidence. The directions and feedback also helped my confidence
- Taking on responsibility without adults present
- I was able to confidently dance.

'People trusted me to bring my ideas to life'

- I didn't think I would feel comfortable acting with people I didn't know but with the support of others I felt included
- I was able to be a lot louder at saying my lines at the end than at the start
- I have now joined a drama club and can easily perform in front of people
- By having the opportunity to practice our skills and working with professionals
- Mainly, my confidence grew in team exercises such as creating the pillow dance with people who I hadn't worked with before
- Mentoring and Experience
- Because all the people involved were so supportive

'With help from others, I can now confidently hold a part on my own'

- I spoke and got to know more people, as well as do activities that were out of my comfort zone.
- Worked with others

'Because I was working with other people and after a while I realised we all have our opinions so why not say them? It pushed me to express myself because it wouldn't be worth it if I didn't.'

- I felt more confident with my peers and the help and encouragement that people gave me

- To hear my songs being played and sung made my confidence grow!
- Because I had to talk to people I didn't know
- I have overcome my stage fright!!
- There were lots of rehearsals that helped you make sure you know your part very well.
- Everyone was so patient, accepting and hugely passionate and talented
- Taking control has pushed my confidence

'I felt my confidence increased throughout the course of Highbury whispers, it was such a supporting and creatively challenging project and allowed many to feel free to be themselves and develop confidence in their own ability'.

- Because I was working with new people and I practiced my skills so they improved. I was also complimented and encouraged which helped
- Having to talk to people in order to make sure everything works. I'm quite an introvert so talking to other built my confidence
- Because I had the backing of great mentors and the show was great!
- I think I am more confident with my singing in front of audiences

99% enjoyed the project a great deal and would recommend it to a friend

What were you most proud of?

- The opportunities that you gave us and it felt like we were such a great team and we all believed in what we were doing. I was incredibly proud to take part. Thank you!
- Proud of everyone
- I was very proud of the show and I loved working with other people.
- I liked making the props and singing in finale

'Seeing the look on the audiences faces as they didn't think that a production made by children could be as professional as it was'

- I loved everything!!!!!!!
- I enjoyed performing the actual shows the most. I also enjoyed listening to the song I wrote as I felt very proud of it. Meeting new friends was fun as well.

'I enjoyed working with adults as well as children. I liked making friends with people across Hertfordshire. I was very proud of the show and loved how professional it felt'.

- I was very proud to see the end result and think about how much I had done to put it together.
- I was extremely proud of the show and I loved meeting new people who I wouldn't necessarily be friends with before the show. My favourite part would either have to be the finalé or dancing. I can't think of an aspect of the show that I personally didn't enjoy
- I loved putting the show together, writing, directing and performing in it. Also I love getting

feedback and people still come up to me who I didn't even know saw it and say what a success it was. And most of all I am proud to say that I was part of Whispers and enjoyed it so much.

- I enjoyed feeling like a valued team member but I found working with some adults more difficult than I thought it would be
- Working as a big group
- I enjoyed working with other musicians and watching the show come together.
- I enjoyed meeting new people and getting to know them the most, as well as creating an amazing show which I feel proud of. There is nothing I disliked greatly about the show, except maybe we could have (as musicians) been told more about where we need to go and when - we had to figure out a lot of the backstage stuff ourselves.
- I enjoyed being part of a big team and taking part in all the different aspects of the show
- Working with friends and new people
- I loved seeing the set get put together and seeing the show happen.
- Everything
- I truly enjoyed everything! My favourite part was probably the dress rehearsals as it was so amazing to see everyone's hard work come together!
- I enjoyed working in teams
- I loved the rehearsals and working with new people

'Whispers is like nothing I have ever done before. It gave me such a unique opportunity in which the cast and mentors were brimming with support and enthusiasm. I have made new friends, which was a really unexpected outcome for me and was not one of my aims when joining the project. I would change nothing about it and had an absolute whale of a time'.

- I most enjoyed hearing my songs being sang and played as well as making great friends!
- I enjoyed it all I loved helping
- I enjoyed spending time with my friends and spending my half term with everyone!! I truly feel that we all bonded during those rehearsals!! I didn't expect to be part of a show like this and I am truly proud of how it's turned out!
- I was never bored and never got tired of it

'I loved it all! Can't fault anything at all! Even though there were challenges but they were what made it more fun and made us more proud of the final show'

- I loved it all!!
- I enjoyed all of it - it was amazing!
- I enjoyed it loads and help me make more friends

Do you think anything has changed in your life as a result of taking part in Whispers?

- It has reinforced that I would like to act and sing
- Keen to get more involved in proper productions, outside of school
- I think it has definitely influenced my GCSE options and what I want to do as a whole.
- I think it will influence my GCSE options after taking part
- I already attended my drama club but I feel that now I am more comfortable to perform with and in front of others

'It has given me more of an idea how things work in the performing industry and made me want to do it even more than I did originally'

- I was already planning to pick up drama again for GCSE but nether-the-less this has made me confident in that. It has also made me realised that I am only partial to acting as I have more experience in that industry so it has made me think more about a career in this west end as opposed to TV
- GSCE choices definitely, I wasn't sure if I should take Music or Drama GCSEs but know I'm certain!
- Not particularly, but I definitely found out that I enjoyed acting as I hadn't done hardly any before and would do it again if I could
- I already wanted to have a future in drama but Highbury Whispers has shown me just how much I enjoy drama. It has also persuaded me to join a new drama club.

'It has made me believe in myself more and really made me want to go for my dream and achieve a career in the performing arts'

- Yes I have gained a newfound love of costume and enjoy designing. I will seriously consider this in future career choices and am looking for sewing courses.
- It makes me realise how important music is in theatre
- I am more likely to try this type of project again.
- I had already hoped to do GCSE Music, but this project has made me sure I would like to do it. It also made me think that possibly I would like to be part of a production company in the future. Whispers has also given me more confidence and has taught me useful skills for the future, even if I do not do something like this as career.
- Yes, I believe I have more knowledge specifically in the arts world, I have gained amazing memories and I know that I want to continue all the things I did in the project
- I know more about the industry
- I would like to do more drama.

'Yes, because I didn't think I had the talent in me for performing! Now I really want to do drama for GCSEs'

- My confidence has massively and I've made life long friends
- It has definitely secured my decision to peruse a career in acting. I'm much more certain I want to go to drama school
- I have a wider range of media's to chose from for my art GCSE
- I've started to enjoy singing more and it helped massively to my acting skills
- I would love to take part in another show, not only for the music but for the sense of community and support that comes along with it.

'My confidence had definitely improved, also I can now work better in groups'

- Highbury Whispers has made me feel more involved and have a better and wider knowledge of what goes on in theatre so I would love to keep doing things like this in the future.
- I feel it has made more opportunities for me
- 100%, honestly I have made so many new friends that I keep in contact with every day and we all miss whispers so much! I also wasn't sure whether I should take drama and music for gcse, but now.. I think I will!
- I have always been interested in performing arts, and have been to auditions for roles before. It has opened my eyes as to how to go about auditions in the future, as the people behind the casting board really aren't judging you like I thought they were! I also am most likely taking GCSE music and the project has definitely influenced that

'It has made me want to work harder and continue with drama/music etc And given me a few ideas for future careers'

- It's given me new friends and developed my skills
- It has made me more sure about my compositions and made me realise for sure that something so simple can have a great effect
- I am continuing with drama

100% of participants felt supported by the staff and mentors

- Everyone was really helpful and friendly. You are all awesome!
- They were amazing
- I felt that when we rehearsed scene's that the mentors would really help to show the best of us in our skills and develop our skills as well by telling us what was good but could be improved in a nice and supporting way
- Because there was a point where I thought I didn't want to do it anymore but the a staff convinced me to stay and I am so glad she did
- It was great to work with professionals, guiding us through but still letting all the young people do it themselves.
- I thought the staff were really helpful whenever we had questions to ask.
- The support that I personally received was incredible, without it I believe the show would not have been such a big success!
- Yes - but sometimes I didn't feel in control of what I was supposed to do on set design.
- Everyone was very helpful and taught us new skills, and supported us if necessary.
- We were clearly pushed in the right direction without being strictly instructed in a way. They helped us expand on the project
- They helped you individually so it was easier
- The staff were absolutely incredible, constant encouragement and care for everyone.
- All the mentors who were brought in were amazing, they put their all into helping us bring the show to life.
- Kate Romano was incredibly supportive in this project. I felt like if I had any troubles I could go to and members of staff about it.
- I feel I could talk to them if I had a question but I didn't feel afraid of them
- We couldn't have done this project without the staff and mentors! They've done so much for all of us and I couldn't thank them enough!
- They were so friendly and encouraging
- The level of support was very good, strong where needed but also allowed us to be creative
- On the last night I kinda broke apart and missed half of the last show. I know that everyone was so kind to me when I was upset.

What did you find the most challenging aspect of Highbury Whispers? Did you enjoy the challenge?

- Getting everything right and at the right time.
- Multiple stages and set-ups. Enjoyed making it work!
- What I found the most challenging was moving around the building whilst being as quiet as possible.
- The acting was challenging as i had never done a production like this with so much behind the scene's but it was amazing to feel the rush of it all and i miss the nervous exitment

- I enjoyed the challenging aspects such as the amount of time we had to come up with something of this scale!
- The amount of hours it took in the half term. When I woke up, I didn't really feel like going but as soon as I got there I was really glad I went everyday.
- I found the hardest aspect was doing the play with an injury
- Having to come up with a story and script from scratch but I definitely enjoyed it and gained a lot of experience.
- I think the most challenging part were in the scene meetings, trying to come up with the basic stage directions and how to make the characters convey certain emotions. I did enjoy this bit because it helped me come to terms with how much thought is really put into a e.g.: 1 minute dance
- Definitely the last final few weeks when we were putting it all together. However I loved doing it and very much enjoyed it.
- Things sometimes changed around a bit too quickly for me to adapt comfortably. I didn't like getting directed by both the scene director and Caroline - conflicting instructions.
- Working with people you haven't met before
- Getting everything to run together smoothly with the music, it was fun.
- I think the most challenging aspect would be either playing outside (as it was difficult to stay in tune), or the kitchen percussion (as it is not something I had previously done). However, playing outside meant we had a laugh, and I enjoyed the challenge of percussion as I can now use that skill in the future.
- The performing but in the end I did enjoy it because I thought that it would look silly if I didn't try my best so I went out there and did it
- Learning new techniques
- Acting to lots of people. After a while I started to enjoy it though.
- The putting everything together but (costumes, music, script)
- Doing the actual performances
- Probably the design of the costumes as it definitely isn't my strong point, but I was definitely a good challenge that I enjoyed doing.
- Being organised was a challenge but this was a good obstacle to overcome
- To learn all my lines and songs but I found that fun
- Working with different age groups has its perks and of course a few cons. However, we put that aside with the common interest of producing a show we were proud to present.
- Finding emotion when performing my lines.
- I found it challenging to organise the production meetings as well as running them but it was really fun in the end!
- I found talking to people the most challenging but I feel I have somewhat overcome that because of Highbury whisperers
- Preparing for shows. And I did kinda enjoy it.
- I think the most challenging aspect of Highbury Whispers was the audition process, only because I was extremely nervous during the auditions and I was up against so many amazing actors!
- I found that making people listen was very hard, but I had other people supporting me which made this challenge easier to deal with
- It was amazing! The most challenging part was the fact that it could go completely wrong on the night! But that created a bit of risk which was exciting! But there are always the aspects of shows that it could go wrong but that's just showbiz!
- Trying to make the whole cast quiet for just before scene 9 and it was quite stressful listening for the cue