

On Friday 22nd May 2015 The Kala Chethena Kathakali Company spent the day working with children from Oasis Academy Bank Leaze and Oasis Academy Long Cross.



During the course of the day, the team delivered music and drama workshops to year six students. These explored the skills of the Kathakali actors, including; characterisation, an ancient 4,000 year old sign language called Mudras used to tell the story, facial expressions and body co-ordination.

After lunch, the company delivered a performance to the whole school. Kathakali is based on Hinduism and is a highly charged powerful drama that combining devotion, dance, music, costumes and make up to produce one of the world`s most impressive forms of sacred theatre. The performance offered audience members an opportunity to experience non-western drama, encouraging children and young people to focus and concentrate, increasing awareness of non-western storytelling and engaging the imagination.

Children who experienced the performance: approximately 380

Staff who experienced the performance: approximately 74

Feedback from participants:

Penny Rawlings, Bristol Ensemble Preludes Manager and Music Leader working with both schools *"Thank you so much for organising the Kathakali experience for Lawrence Weston. I spoke to the head teacher yesterday and she said it was a very special experience and something totally different for the children. Interestingly, she said the ARB (Autism Resource Base) children were absolutely loving the whole experience - the costumes and the performances. So thanks again. Best wishes."*

Katey McGill, Music Co-ordinator Oasis Academy Bank Leaze *"I really enjoyed the session, would definitely be keen for our school to work with St George's Artists again and would encourage other Schools to get involved 5/5."*