

On my way to the show on Friday, I popped into Morrison's. To my surprise, forlornly lying outside the shop's entrance, was a rather sad looking Whoopee cushion. I was struck by the promise of 'fun' that a fully inflated Whoopee cushion holds as an unsuspecting victim unwittingly sits on it. (you know what happens next!). The contrast with the sadly discarded, slightly grubby article in front of me was stark. There wasn't much 'fun' going on there but it did seem fitting because the fun of hearing the whoopee cushion is always going to get a bit tiring and short lived. Gone in a gust of vibrating wind!

The 63 young people who took part in Matilda last week will have had an experience which will last a lifetime. This is what they have reflected on.

FROM THE MATILDA TEAM...

I just wanted to say thank you so much for everything, I have had so much **fun** over the past few months, and I have made so many wonderful friendships, It has been such an incredible experience to be a part of this production and I can't wait for the one next year!! I am so great-full and thankful for all the effort you have all put into this, it is something I will remember forever. It has been so wonderful to watch this show come together over these past few months, " I have made memories I will never forget, and I couldn't be happier with how we all performed; This show wouldn't have been able to happen without all of you, I am truly thankful for everything you have done for all of us so thank you so much

Jasmine

It was an amazing experience and it was a lot of **fun** to participate in. We all made a lot of good memories and I loved every minute of it, it was something I would definitely recommend to other younger students when there is another younger years play because it is one of the most amazing things I've done and each minute was fun and even though it was tiring and nerve-wracking it was an amazing experience.

Gracie

It was a great atmosphere backstage and we all enjoyed giving you joy while watching our performances.

Clem

M. i96 Fun

Thank you for the amazing experience I have loved it the 3 months have gone in a blink of an eye. Thank you to everyone for accepting me. I have made so many friends. Thank you everyone. xx

You are an exceptional bunch of people and it has been an absolute joy to work with you for the last 3 months. I hope you are all proud of what we have achieved - we are incredibly proud of you. If you're feeling a little down today, that's ok, but remember to be glad it happened not sad it's over. WELL DONE YOU ABSOLUTE SUPERSTARS!!

Well done everyone for your hard work , everyone has taken their own precious time to perform this wonderful show and im very proud of you all and i will miss this moment but there will always be an opportunity to participate in another show one day thanks for this amazing show miss sinclair love you guys Samantherr

Matilda has been a wonderful experience due to the staff and cast, if I could redo it all again I would. It was one of the best things to ever happen to me and I can't thank everyone enough. The time has flown by! I guess time really does fly when ur having **fun**. Thank u to All the staff and cast x Lilly

It was a great experience filled with love and support from all the students and teachers. It's an experience i will never forget. I am so glad I got involved as it was super rewarding. Geneveive

thank you all for these amazing memories i've had an amazing time these past 3monthe love yous all VKelsie



Being in Matilda was such an amazing experience in so many ways and not enough words to express how much i am proud of everyone and everyone should be proud of what we have achieved over 3 months. All the friendships we have all made are friendships for life. WELL DONE EVERYONE Mason

Being in Matilda was amazing. The cast was so kind and the teachers were amazing. I loved being on the stage with everyone and learning the songs and dance. It was cool to work with other people in the dances and scenes. Everyone was really kind and was amazing to work with. The teachers did so well directing the whole play and teaching us it. The lighting was amazing. All the people who helped with the play were amazing. I wish I could do Matilda every day because it was amazing!

I enjoyed Matilda at first I thought like let's give it a try even if I enjoy it or not I loved all the time rehearsing with my friends and teachers I wish we could just do this every day. I am lucky to be a part of the cast xx I hope we will do it again anytime soon it was a pleasure participating in Matilda and I have made some new friends I really appreciate it and a HUGE thank you to Michelle Sinclair , Tanisha Pearson, Rachael Hare and everyone else thank you xx Georgina

Matilda has made me boost my confidence and has taken me out of my comfort zone. when I first heard of it I knew I wanted to join because it is one of my dreams to become an actress. I'm so proud of all the people who took part. Sasha

Being a part of school theatrical **productions are fun** and rewarding. You get to make new friends, try new things, maybe even learn to dance. But there's more!

Critical Thinking It has never been more imperative that students develop critical thinking skills. Our most engaging of plays and musicals, not to mention the most effective performances, look to discover the truth about the human condition.

McAuley students are always delving critically into their scripts, from drama students acting in their classroom plays; to GCSE and A level students devising and revising and performing their own pieces, to KS3 students portraying persecuted children in our latest production of Matilda the Musical.

Collaboration If you would like an example of effective collaboration and teamwork, look no further than the theatre. A production at McAuley typically employs the skills of dozens of talented students and teachers, including actors, directors, crew and technicians, musicians, and set, costume, and hair and makeup designers. Throughout 6 to 8 weeks of the rehearsal process, effective collaboration and communication is essential to the success of a production.

Communication Sometimes successful communication takes the form of providina information or instruction, as in during the rehearsal process. Other times, we use communication to influence, motivate or such as offerina encouragement during those moments of pre-show jitters. Often, our communication is non-verbal, conveyed with body language — a skill that both actors and backstage crew use to communicate during a performance. Students who take part in a production at McAuley are gaining valuable skills that are innately part of the production process.

Creativity Finally, my personal favourite of the Four C's: Creativity. Experts are calling this new era the "Age of Creativity" and if you've seen McAuley students on stage, you'll see what they mean. Our students are able to do so much in the way of set design and construction, costume and props. These leaders of the future are well-prepared to innovate no matter the path they explore.

Oh...and it's also a lot of fun too!

Well done everybody
I'm so, so proud of you all

John Rooney Headteacher

