

Our Country's Good Research Project

In Year 12, we will begin studying the play 'Our Country's Good'. We will also be going to see this in London in the Autumn term (date TBC!). The play follows a group of convicts in the late 18th century who are sent to Australia to establish a penal colony.

Ahead of starting in September, complete the following research project. This can be presented in a variety of ways, please choose whichever you would prefer. Either:

- A PowerPoint presentation
- A Word document
- A mood board

You should research and present your findings on the following:

- **The historic background – 1788**
 - What was Britain like in 1788?
 - Why were British criminals shipped to Australia?
 - What kinds of crimes had prisoners committed?
 - What were the conditions on the ship like?
 - What happened when they docked in Australia?
- **The background of the facts behind the story**
 - Were any of the Officers or convicts real?
 - Can you find any archive material about officers / convicts on the first fleet?
 - How were convicts punished? What for?
- **Setting – Australia –SUPPORT FINDINGS WITH IMAGES**
 - What would the beach have looked like? The cove?
 - What kinds of plants and trees would have grown? You need specific names / images
 - What sounds would they have been able to hear at night? Birds (specific names) / animals (specific names)/ sea etc.
- **Costume – 1788 – SUPPORT FINDINGS WITH IMAGES AND KEY VOCABULARY**
 - What would the officers have worn (Captain, Reverend, Major, Lieutenant, Second Lieutenant, Midshipman)?
 - How will the audience be able to tell the rank?
 - What would the convicts have worn?
 - Women?
 - Men?
 - What would the Aborigine look like? Costume / make-up (colours, style)

- **Props – SUPPORT FINDINGS WITH IMAGES AND KEY VOCABULARY**
 - What weapons would the officers have used?
 - How would rooms be lit?
 - What would a book / diary / photograph have looked like?
 - What would the playscript look like?
 - What would crates look like?
 - What would candles / tankards / bottles / telescope / rope look like?
- **Previous productions of the play**
 - Find as many newspaper reviews as you can. Try google searches but also search the archives of 'The Stage', 'The Guardian', 'The Times' etc.
 - Find as many images of previous productions as you can. Complete image, YouTube and google searches.

Live Theatre

Either go and see a piece of theatre in person or use Drama Online (log in below) to watch something new. In September, you will tell us a little bit about the show you have watched. This can be a play or a musical- whatever you'd prefer!

dramaonlinelibrary.com

Username: 1Ug/77kVb&

Password: 1XrV7Td&QG

Questions?

Miss Beale s.beale@cns-school.org

Miss Richards p.richards@cns-school.org