THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

era — *enhancing the learning experience*

Make the most of the Shakespeare season

To mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, the BBC has launched a special Shakespeare Festival.

This landmark series of programmes on TV and radio covers everything – from adaptations of the plays, documentaries about the life of the writer, and even comedy inspired by the Bard.

The huge range of programming will be a great resource for teachers looking for supporting material for lessons, or those looking for a fresh take on the classic plays.

The breadth of content means that there is something for everyone: the *Horrible Histories: Shakespeare Special* (scheduled to air on the 19th April) would be great for introducing the playwright to Primary pupils, whilst the BBC School Radio music workshop production of Macbeth (available online now) features eight songs following the story of the Scottish Play.

Secondary students will find the all-star cast of The Hollow Crown (including Benedict Cumberbatch and Keeley Hawes) an appealing draw to the Histories. (The series will start on 7th May with Part One of Henry VI.)

Missed a programme? The ERA Licence covers the use of BBC iPlayer, and various clips from programmes are often left on the microsites.

You can also check out the ERA Learning Platform (see below) for curated links to resources, sorted by subject area. Or take a look through

Richard III - Benedict Cumberbatch and Luke Treadaway. BBC/Carnival Film & Television Ltd/Robert Viglasky.

the BBC Shakespeare Archive Resource which is available to all schools in the UK at (**http://shakespeare.ch.bbc.co.uk/**).

We will also post regular updates on our blog and tweet links to programmes as soon as they are scheduled.

By holding an ERA Licence, you can record any of the programmes broadcast across the Shakespeare Festival, and create an amazing archive of material for use in the classroom – as (and when!) you like it.

How does ERA support Education?

SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND are licensed either centrally through the Local Authorities or via the Centre for Education and Finance Management (CEFM) on a school-by-school basis in the case of East Dunbartonshire.

Independent schools are licensed through SCIS.

Staff can make copies of programmes, store these on a central server or access clips from broadcaster on-demand services or websites.

The diversity of programmes available on TV and radio ensures that there is a constant and ever-changing selection of resources for educators to use in lessons.

To support 'flipped learning' the ERA Licence means that students can be directed to watch in their own time an adaptation or range of clips so that the discussion can begin straightaway in the lesson.
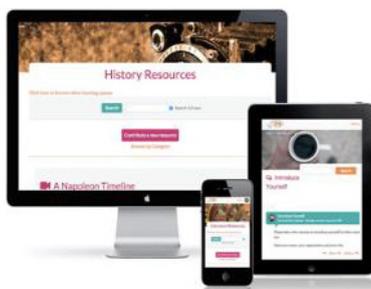
Watching programmes outside the classroom increases student/teacher interaction time in the classroom.

We'd like to help all our licensees make the most of their licence, so our website includes a Resources & Case Studies section.

Through our outreach work with licensees we've accumulated a range of both anecdotal and written case studies which demonstrate the innovative and inspiring ways in which teachers are now making use of video and audio content.

Contributions to this section are always welcome.

ERA Learning Platform is launched

ACCESS TO CURATED ERA-Licensed material is often cited as one of the most helpful services that ERA could offer its licensees.

Over the last year we have launched a project to design and pilot a Learning Platform on which our members can share and catalogue links to amazing broadcast content. **www.eralearning.uk** now contains an ever-growing bank of links to permanent / semi-permanent ERA licensed resources.

Resources are catalogued by subject and searchable by keyword. The platform will enable users to comment on and rate resources as well as offering regular discussion forums. Please contact ERA if you would like to be provided with a free login to this service.