

Upper 6 Theatre Studies A Level practical examination



On Monday evening staff and pupils gathered to watch a double bill of theatre performed by Upper 6 pupils Gabrielle and Faith.

Their exam brief was to use the stimulus: 'Failure is an event not a person', Zig Ziglar.

From this they then had to devise a performance using the style of either a practitioner or a theatre company. Faith and Gabe chose the theatre company The Paper Birds which is a devising theatre company, with a social and political agenda. They are recognised as UK leaders in devised verbatim theatre. They are artists, investigators, entrepreneurs, educators who pride themselves on taking complex, multi-faceted subjects and making them accessible.

The final performance after many months rehearsal was a real success, it was an engaging and insightful look into the minds of young people coping under the pressure of exam success and failure.

Miss Brotherton's review, "I really enjoyed how the girls represented the toll of digital immediacy versus the internal nagging feeling of long term ;success'. I thought they did an excellent job of transitioning from character acting to working with their props/set, to talking verbatim, and using digital media. Fluid but jarring at the same time – I liked it a lot."

Second on the bill was a scene from 'A Taste of Honey'. It tells the story of Jo (Faith), a working class schoolgirl, and her mother, Helen (Gabe), who is presented as tarty, foul mouthed and promiscuous. Again, Faith and Gabe performed to an incredibly high standard, bringing both characters naturalistically to life.

They both made Miss Logue and myself very proud teachers.

Mrs Gemma Hamlyn