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Dear Head of Drama,

I am writing to you to introduce myself as the new Principal Moderator for Unit 1 - *Exploration of Drama and Theatre*, GCE Drama and Theatre Studies.

To enable you and your centre to standardise the marking of your Unit 1 candidates we are providing centres with both practical and written assessed work. This is supported by the Principal Moderator's commentaries. There are two practical drama sessions, six sets of *Exploration Notes* and *Evaluations of Live Theatre* for you to use to help you accurately assess the work of your own candidates.

The two practical drama sessions have been recorded and sent to you on a DVD that accompanies this letter. The first recorded practical drama session shows students exploring the play *Metamorphosis*, by *Steven Berkoff*, using the ideas of *Antonin Artaud*. The second practical session records the exploration of *Oedipus Rex*, by *Sophocles*, using the ideas of the theatre company *Kneehigh*. Each session lasts about 35 minutes.

For each practical session the teacher has chosen and assessed the highest and lowest attaining candidates and one in between, for the work carried out in that workshop. Please refer to the Edexcel Website for *Exploration Notes*, *Evaluations of Live theatre* and individual candidate's commentary as well as a DVD commentary.

The *Exploration Notes* have been written in response to practical work these students have carried out; the *Evaluations of Live Theatre* was carried out after a visit to see *"To Be Straight With You"*, by *DVB Physical Theatre*. It is important to note, your students may not create *Exploration Notes* and *Evaluations of Live Theatre* that are organised in exactly the same way these students have done.

For the purpose of moderation, you will be required to record your students in one session, for one of your chosen Unit 1 play texts. *Please read the Instructions for The Conduct of the Examination booklet, also found on the Edexcel website, for details of the supporting evidence required for Unit 1.*

All the work has been produced by a group of six students, supported by their teachers, from Wellsway School in Keynsham and I am very grateful for their support.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Subject Advisor Service for Drama and Performing Arts. The service will open in 2009. Our Subject Advisors offer a personal telephone and email service to respond to your questions and, if you wish, can provide you directly with subject information. You will be able to find the telephone number and email address of your subject advisor at www.edexcel.com/subjectadvisor

Should you have any queries regarding this letter or any other issues relating to this unit, please contact our dedicated customer service line on 0844 576 0025. Alternatively, please use our "Ask the Expert" service which can be accessed through the Edexcel website.

Yours Sincerely,



Carolyn Carnaghan
Principal Moderator - Unit 1



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE