

Why we use Google Apps for Further Stages+

A Guide for Parents & Students

1. What are Google Apps and why are they useful for learning?

- **Learning is a continuous process** and by offering students the opportunity to use a safe digital learning environment that can be accessed through any digital device, students can learn at their own pace and take their time at understanding the learning material
- **Teachers and students are able to share** research, ideas and resources easily in a safe, closed digital environment
- **Each student can document their own learning journey** in the performing arts classroom, tracking their progress through videos, photos and note-taking, building their own digital portfolio
- **Teachers can offer direct feedback** online, responding to students individually
- **Students can submit this portfolio and receive an accreditation** via Google Apps
- **Teachers can impart information** to every student; the teacher can inform them about performance dates, exciting workshops, and external performing arts opportunities.

2. What are the benefits of Google Classroom?

- **Online portfolios** can be developed by students as they progress throughout the programme
- **Ease of access** means students can access the Google App anytime, anywhere. It is designed to work with any browser (e.g Chrome, Firefox, Safari) and on any device or computer. This means key dates are stored on the Google Calendar, access to emails and resources from the teacher are readily available
- **Online storage** means students can store and organise videos and class explorations easily and share it with their teachers
- **Collaboration is encouraged** between teacher and students - during collaborative work teachers can monitor the progress of each student and provide instant feedback to either the group or to the individual



3. Keep data secure

- Stagecoach have set user permissions and security settings to ensure that sharing content is limited to within the class and teacher only
- Stagecoach Performing Arts own the data — Google makes it easy for administrators to monitor and manage data security. There are no ads in G Suite for Education core services, and students' personal information won't be used to create ad profiles for targeting.

4. What's included in Google Apps?

- **Gmail** provides email storage with extra security including the option for restricted incoming and outgoing email
- **Google Calendar** enables the teacher to create and share calendars so the class have access to see the key dates and full calendar of upcoming events
- **Google Drive, Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides,** allows students to create, share and store documents, videos and music. It also allows students to work collaboratively together on a document, which would support activities such as scriptwriting, creating a rehearsal plan and sharing research

5. Google Classroom - next steps

- Our Google Classroom has a particular set of security settings to ensure that all communication between students and teachers are in a closed environment.
- Students/parents need to setup a personal Gmail account or use an existing Gmail account in order to work with Google Classroom. Email accounts such as Yahoo, Hotmail etc cannot be used with Google Classroom.
- When logging into Google Classroom with the Gmail account, students will be able to see their classes, assignments, posts and feedback given by the teacher. Students will not be able to see comments and posts from other students who belong to the same class.
- Students can access Google Classroom via the app on Android, Apple devices and laptops by logging into Gmail. To access the apps for mobile devices search 'Google Classroom' in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

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