

Beechwood makes Shakespeare rock

by Helen Devonshire

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SHAKESPEARE was brought to life by Beechwood students as they performed a musical about his life last night.

All those in the junior school played a part in the Shakespeare Rocks production as they took to the St James stage.

Year 6 students have taken on the lead acting roles, with the other year groups forming the chorus.

Edmund Hartley, 11, played Shakespeare and Tal Salter, 10, was the narrator.

The boys said the storyline of the musical is based around the discovery of what is supposedly Shakespeare's lost diary, which was found for a very cheap price.

'It was found online for £1.99,' Tal said.

It includes the story about how he started in Warwickshire to the ownership of the Globe Theatre as well highlighting the characters who feature in his life.

It also introduces some of his works as well as describing life in the Elizabethan era.

Head of music Richard Sutton said that every year the school puts on a different production.

'We have been practising since the Eisteddfod was over,' he said.

He added that it was a good way for the students to learn about Shakespeare.

Edmund and Tal both said they had enjoyed taking part.

'My favourite part is in the Globe Theatre when the painters come,' Edmund said.

Tal said that as narrator, he has had a lot of lines to learn.

'My favourite part is when he [Shakespeare] dyes his hair and wears a blonde wig.'

While finishing touches were made to the on-stage props, the boys admitted to feeling some stage fright.

'I am very excited but nervous at the same time,' Tal said.



The cast of the Beechwood musical Shakespeare Rocks at the final rehearsal before last night's performance at St James.

(Picture by Adrian Miller, 8324419)