

Do you hear the students sing?



Queen Elizabeth's School in Wimborne performing Les Miserables.

After dreaming a dream students at one Dorset school pulled off their most ambitious musical production to date.

Queen Elizabeth's (QE) School in Wimborne, with the help of local middle schools, wowed audiences when they staged an impressive version of the famous Les Miserables.

More than 100 QE students took part as cast, crew and musicians and they were joined by a further 50 students from fellow Wimborne Academy Trust schools' Allenbourn, St Michael's CE and Lockyer's middle schools plus Cranborne Middle School.

They performed six shows to packed-out audiences at the school's state-of-the-art theatre as well as staging two special performances exclusively to middle schools.

And the shows also helped raise more than £3,000 for the Piam Brown children's cancer unit at Southampton General Hospital.

Director of the show and head of drama, Alex Chester, said: "This has been a mammoth production and our most ambitious to date.

“We began planning in the summer term and held rehearsals prior to the summer holidays to get a head start on the large choral numbers and complex harmonies.

“My vision for the production was an immersive experience and we used a catwalk so the cast could move among the audience as they performed.

“We also had a revolving element on the stage, which was extremely fun to work with and looked fantastic.

“The audience was also treated to the talents of the amazing orchestra, who played so professionally throughout under the expert guidance of musical director, Steve Glover.

“Every single student who took part in this production blew us away with their talent, dedication and hard work and it’s been a privilege to work with them all.”

Taking on the lead role of Jean Valjean were Thomas Jocham (Year 12) and Ryan Greenfield (Year 13), who shared the demanding part.

Year 13’s Isaac Wray was Inspector Javert and Lydia Hughes (Year 11) and Isabella Ashworth (Year 13) shared the role of Cosette

Ben Riley from Year 11 was Marius and the role of Eponie was played by Jemma Janes (Year 13), Ella Sweeney (Year 9) and Keziah Ibe (Year 10).

The role of Fantine was also shared by three students - Lydia Sheridan, Lottie Linter and Jasmin Marks.

Headteacher, Katie Boyes, said: ““This has been a collaborative experience for all those involved in the production from the cast and musicians to the crew.

“We are immensely proud of each and every student involved in what was a truly outstanding production worthy of the West End.”

CEO of Wimborne Academy Trust, Liz West, added: “It was wonderful to see how QE School totally immersed younger children from the middle schools into the production – both as cast and audience members.

“It was an inspirational performance and our talented staff and students produced something quite amazing.”