

# 2019 JOHN BELL SCHOLARSHIP TIPS FOR AUDITIONEES

- Before any audition, the single most important thing you can do is **read the play** and understand the context of your chosen piece. Make sure you take the time to get a good understanding of the story and what your character wants in this particular moment. What is their end goal and what's in their way? Shakespeare is not always easy to read on your own so ask your teachers for help or read it aloud with friends. There are lots of great resources where you can watch excerpts from plays and get an explanation of what is going on.
- Just because Shakespeare was English doesn't mean we have to perform his words in an English accent. We want to **hear your voice** in your audition so try not to put on any kind of accent. Yes, articulation and pronunciation is important, but don't let it get in the way of your natural voice. Plus, you will find that when you perform the piece in your own voice, you will naturally strengthen your personal connection to the character.
- **Don't worry about costume.** The most important thing when it comes to clothing is that you wear something you are comfortable in. We will be workshoping your piece with you and we want you to be able to move freely and comfortably.
- Find a way to **personally connect to the character.** Think about the theme of the piece or a problem that your character faces and try to imagine yourself in a similar situation. For example, this does not mean that if you are Macbeth you have to pretend to be a medieval Scottish warrior fresh from the battlefield. But you can think about what Macbeth is feeling or struggling with, then take this feeling or dilemma and let it drive your performance. Show us a little bit of you in your character.
- **Be bold.** Find an interesting, creative or unique way to bring this moment in your character's story to life. Remember we are seeing performances from students around Australia – make your performance unique to you. We are not looking for the most polished or 'correct' performance (there is no such thing!). We want to see your interpretation and your personality shine through.