

1 September 2025

Dear Principal,

You are receiving this letter because a member of your teaching staff is interested in applying for Bell Shakespeare's **2026 National Teacher Mentorship** program. I am very pleased to share some key information about the value of the program and its outcomes.

The National Teacher Mentorship is funded by the Australian Government Office For The Arts and Teachers Mutual Bank. It has been delivered consistently since 2007 with more than 400 teachers from every Australian state and territory in our alumni. We accept applications from primary and secondary teachers, from all sectors, any subject area, at any stage of their teaching career. The program is a fully-funded, year-long training program with Bell Shakespeare, Australia's national Shakespeare company, established by John Bell AO OBE in 1990.

Commencing with four days of specialist training at Bell Shakespeare HQ in Sydney, the program is designed to provide teachers with innovative teaching strategies to improve the quality of Shakespeare programs in their schools. Importantly, the strategies we teach can be applied across any content area or topic, and so the program will refresh entire teaching practices and transform classroom learning. Improving teaching strategies increases student engagement and academic results, as well as teacher enjoyment and retention. You can take a look at the profound impact of the program long-term via the [2024 National Teacher Mentorship Impact Survey linked here](#).

The mentorship covers all travel, accommodation, catering and Professional Learning costs. The only cost to your school is the provision of relief teaching while the attending teacher is in Sydney. Successful teachers will attend training in Sydney on either of the following dates:

- Group 1 training at Bell Shakespeare HQ: 17 - 20 February 2026
- Group 2 training at Bell Shakespeare HQ: 24 – 27 February 2026

Please note, travel to and from Sydney is in addition to these dates. The mentorship program will then be delivered throughout 2026 with no other required absences from school.

Entry is by application with 30 places available in the program each year. The applying teacher will require a one-page letter of support from you, and we have provided a template letter on our website for you to use. Full information can be found at:

<https://www.bellshakespeare.com.au/national-teacher-mentorship>

Thank you for your consideration of the program for your school. Should you have any other questions please do not hesitate to contact me at joannae@bellshakespeare.com.au or 02 8298 9000.

Best regards,



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Bell Shakespeare

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