**Act 4, Scene 1 – The New Prophecies (Part 3)**

**Activities:**

1. Macbeth has no children meaning he has no heir to inherit his throne once he is dead. How do you think the image of children in these prophecies will cause him to react?

2. ‘Thy crown does sear mine eye-balls’ – What are the connotations of ‘sear’?

3.Highlight the punctuation in this scene. What do you notice? What does this tell you about how Macbeth is feeling and the mood Shakespeare wishes to create in this scene?

4. ‘What, will the line stretch out to the crack of doom?’ – The line Macbeth talks about is the line of inheritance. What is Macbeth realising about the future of Scotland’s monarchy?

5. ‘Banquo smiles upon me’ – Why is Banquo smiling?

6. Discuss Macbeth’s visions in this extract. What role do they play in the development of his character?

**MACBETH**

I will be satisfied: deny me this,  
And an eternal curse fall on you! Let me know.  
Why sinks that cauldron? and what noise is this?

**First Witch**

Show!

**Second Witch**

Show!

**Third Witch**

Show!

**ALL**

Show his eyes, and grieve his heart;  
Come like shadows, so depart!

INCREASING CHALLENGE

*A show of Eight Kings, the last with a glass in his hand; GHOST OF BANQUO following*

**MACBETH**

Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo: down!  
Thy crown does sear mine eye-balls. And thy hair,  
Thou other gold-bound brow, is like the first.  
A third is like the former. Filthy hags!  
Why do you show me this? A fourth! Start, eyes!  
What, will the line stretch out to the crack of doom?  
Another yet! A seventh! I'll see no more:  
And yet the eighth appears, who bears a glass  
Which shows me many more; and some I see  
That two-fold balls and treble scepters carry:  
Horrible sight! Now, I see, 'tis true;  
For the blood-bolter'd Banquo smiles upon me,  
And points at them for his.

*Apparitions vanish*