**Drama – WAGOLL**

**Ideas Log 1 – Component 3 – BTEC Performing Arts – 598 words**

Our initial thoughts when looking at the stimulus of ‘Too Good to be True’ and the commission of teenage health, was to consider the idea of sexual health within teenagers. We started to explore this idea by developing a bare structure and creating a freeze frame for three scenes. We looked at teenage pregnancy, STI’s and Peer Pressure to have sex.

Another idea that we started to consider was teenage eating disorders, linking ‘Too Good to be True’ to the idea of forming the perfect body. We looked into diets and ‘healthy foods’ that are advertised in teenage magazines, showing an impact on a teenage audience. This research then led us to look at other forms of peer pressure on teenagers, that could lead to health issues and we explored the idea of smoking.

For our performance idea, we have decided to use the style of Epic Theatre. The Brechtian techniques of alienation and direct address lend themselves to communicating the messages that The Primary Care Trust are trying to get across. We intend to create a piece based around the issue of smoking from a role play of a family who is affected by cancer due to smoking, exploring the way that smoking was marketed as a healthy product. We aim to use features of the style, such as rhetorical questions to get the audience to think of the negative aspects of smoking.

When initially developing our piece we created four freeze frames, using an epic theatre structure:

FF1 – A smoking advert showing health benefits

FF2 – Death of a family member due to lung cancer

FF3 – Cancer clinic

FF4 – A smoking advert showing the negativities about smoking

We then brought these freeze frames to life and started to experiment with techniques such as archetypes, direct audience address and multi- purpose props and set.

We have decided to aim this piece at teenagers. Statistics have shown that teenagers start smoking for a variety of reasons including peer pressure, wanting to ‘look cool’ and being mis-sold the benefits, such as staying thin. We hope that it will have the positive impact the Primary Care Trust wishes and that young people will realise that the benefits of smoking are ‘Too Good to be True!’

We are planning to use a PowerPoint as part of our performance to both project scenery but also to show facts and statistics relevant to the sections of direct address. We are aiming to tour this production to local secondary schools and therefore have planned a very basic ‘living room’ set which comprises of 4 chairs, for the 4 main characters, and a central small table. We are aiming to ask the schools to provide these for us to help with logistic arrangements.

During the initial ideas process, I was in charge of researching the statistic relating to smoking deaths and carrying out confidential research within my school relating to the reasons why young people start smoking. I then used this to create the script for the actors to deliver for their direct address scenes. I directed the actors for these scenes to ensure that they conveyed the messages in an effective way.

During the course, we have studied ‘Too Much Punch for Judy’ by Mark Wheeler, a piece of Verbatim Theatre. I loved the way that the interaction with the audience made the issues and themes more real and helped to communicate the message behind the piece. We have used similar techniques, such as the projection of scenery and the use of a basic set, to allow the audience to focus on the key messages.