

24th January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Blood Brothers Workshop

In component 3 of the drama GCSE exam, students are assessed on the set text '**Blood Brothers**' by Willy Russell. Students are required to have a very in-depth knowledge of the plays narrative, themes, characters as well as the social/historical background. I am thrilled with the students' enthusiasm so far with the play and to consolidate this knowledge and help students to achieve their full potential in the written exam, I am excited to announce that we have been lucky enough to book a full day workshop with Michael Southern from Stage-Ed on Thursday 29th March. The workshop will take place in A53 from 8.45am – 3pm. Michael has played the roles of Mickey and Sammy both on the West End and on tour, is a true expert on the play, and transfers his knowledge in a jam packed, engaging and highly informative workshop.

The workshop will include:

- A physical warm up –consisting of energisers, inhibition breakers, and character work.
- There is a thorough exploration of characterisation, looking at the challenges presented to an actor when having to play various ages from the seven year old up.
- A plot overview and talk in detail about Willy Russell and life in Liverpool at the time the play was set.
- Students are taught how to deliver an authentic Liverpool accent (in a fun but informative manner).
- A read through of an ensemble scene from the show (a specially edited scene that occurs just *after* the musical number 'kids game') and go on to block, rehearse, and finally perform the scene.
- The PM session begins with blocking the beginning of the show to the ghostly, macabre feeling overture.
- Students will try out their new 'scouse' tongue on Mickey's 'I wish I was our Sammy' poem.
- They will tackle some of the following scenes – Mickey/Eddie aged 7, Mickey/Eddie aged 14, Mrs J and Mrs L in the kitchen scene, Mickey and Linda in the pill scene.
- A look at how to successfully use comic timing, through staging the classroom scene in Act 2.
- The session finishes with a question and answers opportunity that gives the students chance to ask what it is like to appear on a West End stage, how the audition process works, and what route is best to take when considering training in the industry.

If you would like your son/daughter to take part in the workshop, **payment must be received by Friday 9th February**. The cost of the workshop is £20. If you would like your son/daughter to attend, please return the reply slip with payment to the Finance Office. If you would prefer to play in instalments please pay £10 now and the remaining £10 by Monday 2nd March.

If your child has a medical condition/disability please ensure they are not taking part in this visit against your doctor's advice.

I really hope your son/daughter is able to participate in this fantastic opportunity, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at ki.watson@arnewood.hants.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Watson
Head of Drama

Rec17/18/drama

Reply Slip – Please return to the Finance Office

Student's Name: Tutor Group:

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend the drama workshop as detailed in the letter dated 19th January 2018 and enclose full payment of £20 or the first instalment of £10.

Signed: Date: