

31st October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Drama Visits

In Section 2 of A Level Drama students are required to critically analyse and evaluate a live performance, therefore an important part of my role as Head of Drama is to offer students a variety of styles and performances to cater for all tastes. This year we are in a very fortunate position of having some excellent theatre being performed making choosing what trips to run incredibly difficult.

I appreciate that paying for trips can be difficult therefore; I have decided to tell you about all trips we are running throughout the year now so that you can decide which trips your son/daughter would like to attend. If you would like them to attend more than one trip, it will be possible to pay for each trip a month at a time to spread the cost.

The first trip being offered to A Level students is The Shadow Factory which will be performed at the Nuffield Theatre on Thursday 28th February. Students will evaluate in their final exam, in lessons between the performance and the written exams students will conduct close analysis of the performance. We have been extremely fortunate to not only get tickets to see the production but to also a stage insight workshop with the stage manager of the performance. This will allow students to tour the set, and see first-hand how key technical features of the play are created.

Shadow Factory

Autumn 1940. The Battle of Britain rages.

Southampton is home to our only hope of victory: the Spitfire. But when the Luftwaffe drops 2,300 bombs in three devastating raids, the city goes up in flames and the Woolston Supermarine Spitfire factory is destroyed.

Jackie is the third generation of Dimmock at her family-run laundry. Polly is the first and only draughtswoman in the Spitfire design office. How will each woman forge her own path in this evolving landscape?

From the ashes, a story of chaos, courage and community spirit emerges.

One of Britain's greatest living playwrights, Hampshire-born Howard Brenton (Anne Boleyn, Shakespeare's Globe; Pravda, National Theatre) tells the remarkable and little known story of how Southampton stepped up when the chips were down.

We will be travelling to the theatre by coach on Thursday 28th February. Students will need to be registered in the Drama Studio (A53) at 4.00pm and we aim to return to school at 11.00pm. The total cost for the trip including transport, ticket for the performance and stage insight workshop will be £22. To attend any of the other trips, students must attend The Shadow Factory.

Missing

Missing is performed by world renowned physical theatre company Gecko, we are incredibly lucky that they are performing so close to us.

Missing is a deliciously warped journey into the depths of the human psyche. Follow Lily, a woman whose soul appears to be decaying. She is very successful in life and love but something is missing...

Amit Lahav's production invites the audience to experience a series of extraordinary images, jaw-dropping choreography and a tantalizing multilingual vocal landscape. The shadows of Lily's past invite her, along with each audience member, to consider how far they have strayed from who they are and where they come from.

Missing is a truly universal theatrical experience. Since 2012 it has toured to Russia, China, Georgia, Malta, Colombia, Mexico and across the UK, including the re-opening of Battersea Arts Centre in September 2018.

'Dazzlingly performed'

Financial Times

'A splendid production'

The Telegraph

We will be travelling to the theatre by mini bus on Thursday 7th February. Students will need to be registered in the Drama Studio (A53) at 6pm and we aim to return to school at 11.00pm. The total cost for the trip including transport, ticket for the performance and stage insight workshop will be £14.

The Comedy about a Bank Robbery

After the enormous success of The Play That Goes Wrong, I am very excited to be able to offer to see the next offering by The Mischief Theatre Company; The Comedy About a Bank Robbery:

Breaking into its 3rd year, Mischief Theatre's smash-and-grab hit The Comedy About A Bank Robbery is a fast, fabulous comedy caper and the funniest show in the West End.

Summer 1958. Minneapolis City Bank has been entrusted with a priceless diamond. An escaped convict is dead set on pocketing the gem with the help of his screwball sidekick, trickster girlfriend... and the maintenance man. With mistaken identities, love triangles and hidden agendas, even the most reputable can't be trusted. In a town where everyone's a crook, who will end up bagging the jewel?

★★★★★ *'This is the funniest show in the West End'* **The Telegraph**

★★★★★ *'A fast and fabulous comedy caper is a joyful night out'* **The Times**

We will be travelling to the theatre by coach on Wednesday 3rd April. Student will need to be registered in the Drama Studio (A53) at 6pm and we aim to return to school at 11.00pm. The total cost for the trip including transport and ticket for the performance will be £24.00.

Matilda

'Writer Dennis Kelly and composer and lyricist Tim Minchin go to the top of the class with this anarchically joyous, gleefully nasty and ingenious musical adaptation of Roald Dahl's story'

matilda musical

Matilda The Musical is the multi-award winning musical from the Royal Shakespeare Company, inspired by the beloved book by the incomparable Roald Dahl.

Winner of over 85 international awards, including 16 for Best Musical, Matilda continues to delight audiences in London, and is touring the UK & Ireland throughout 2018-19.

We will be travelling to the theatre by coach on Thursday 19th June. Student will need to be registered in the Drama Studio (A53) at 6pm and we aim to return to school at 11.00pm. The total cost for the trip including transport and ticket for the performance will be £25.00.

We are fortunate to get a large educational discount, all seats are in the stalls and the full price is over £60 per ticket, there tickets are at a hugely reduced rate.

There are a limited number of tickets available. If you would like your son/daughter to attend please return the reply slip with payment for the first trip by Friday 19th October. Please note that places on the trip are limited and if oversubscribed places will be allocated on a random and equitable basis.

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

Updates on all trips including expected time of arrival to return to school and pictures will be put on our Drama Twitter page, please follow @DramaArnewood to ensure you are kept up to date with all trips and department news.

Reply slip – KS5 Drama Trips (to be handed into Finance by 7th November 2018)

Student's Name: Tutor group:

Step 1 - Which performances

Please tick which shows you would like to book a place for:

Shadow factory	Missing	The Comedy about a Bank Robbery	Matilda

Step 2 – Payment

I enclosed payment for:

Shadow Factory £22.00 Cash/cheque
Missing £14.00 Cash/cheque
The Comedy about a Bank Robbery £24.00 Cash/cheque
Matilda £25.00 Cash/cheque

If you have selected more than one trip you can spread the payment over the next couple of months by paying for the first trip now and then by the deadlines below:

Missing payment must be received by 17th December 2018
The Comedy about a Bank Robbery payment must be received by 14th January 2019
Matilda payment must be received by 14th January 2019

Yours faithfully

Mrs K Watson
Head of Drama