

3rd June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Trips for Drama Students for GCSE and A Level Specification

As part of both the GCSE and A Level specification, 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. I have already booked several trips for next academic year; I have tried to book a range of genres and styles to cater for all tastes.

I appreciate that paying for trips can be difficult therefore; I have decided to tell you about these trips 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. Please be aware that current year 10 students will shortly be invited to a performance of *An Inspector Calls* at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton on Thursday 19th September, this is the English literature set text.

I have indicated the suitability of each show, please note this should be read as **next year's** year groups.

Thirsty (suitable for years 9-13, compulsory for years 11, 12 & 13)

This performance is open to all students in years 9-13 but is compulsory for students in years 11-13. We have been incredibly lucky to book *Paper Birds* to perform in school on Tuesday 2nd October.

From nightclubs to working men's clubs, from house parties to dinner parties; Thirsty relays real accounts from the happy hours to the early hours. Fusing music, verbatim and stunning physical theatre, Thirsty examines binge drinking culture in the UK; lost memories, gained traumas, tales of bruised knees, uncontrollable laughter and sore heads. A dynamic theatrical exploration delving beyond statistics, facts and figures Thirsty looks to the faces and the voices of everyone who likes a drink and asks why as a Nation are we so thirsty?

Students will watch the performance, be part of a Q&A session and have the opportunity to take part in a **2 hour** workshop. The workshop will allow students to explore the performance students have seen as well as looking at how students can use verbatim to create devised performances. This performance will be used in the written exam for GCSE, AS and A level students, it is encouraged that these students also participate in the workshop. The performance will take place during the school day, students wishing to do the workshop should be prepared to stay until 5pm, although timings for the day will be confirmed shortly.

The cost of the performance is £8, the total cost of the **two hour** workshop and performance is £12.

Woman in Black (suitable for years 9 – 13)

I am thrilled to be able to offer students the opportunity to see this amazing and rather terrifying play, it is incredibly cleverly created and includes quite a few jump scares!

Join the millions of theatre goers worldwide who have experienced “The most brilliantly effective spine-chiller you will ever encounter” (Daily Telegraph).

Continuing its record breaking run at the Fortune Theatre in London’s West End, The Woman In Black now embarks on a major UK Tour!

Susan Hill’s acclaimed ghost story comes dramatically alive in Stephen Mallatratt’s ingenious stage adaptation. This gripping production, directed by Robin Herford, is a brilliantly successful study in atmosphere, illusion and controlled horror.

We will be travelling to the theatre by coach on **Thursday 26th September**. Students will need to be registered in the Drama Studio (A53) at 6.00pm 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 £12.

One Man Two Guvnors (suitable for years 10-13)

So many of what we see and study in drama is depressing, so I cannot wait to take students to one of the funniest plays ever written.

One of the great British comedies of the 21st Century

Set in the colourful underworld of Brighton in the swinging sixties, Richard Bean’s riotous farce mixes all the elements of classic comedy into a fizzing cocktail of fun.

Francis Henshall, fired from his skiffle band, finds a way to satisfy his considerable appetites for food, sex and money, to become One Man serving Two Guvnors. To prevent disaster, Francis just has to keep his two guvnors apart!

Mistaken identity, cross-dressing and slapstick are shaken and stirred in this splendidly silly production which guarantees laughter

We will be travelling to the theatre by mini bus on **Thursday 10th October**. 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 and ticket for the performance will be £14.

Les Miserables (suitable for years 8-13)

So from a comedy to one of the most famous tragic musicals!

*After nearly a decade since the last sell-out UK tour, Cameron Mackintosh’s acclaimed Broadway production of Boublil and Schönberg’s musical **Les Misérables** will play Mayflower Theatre in Autumn 2019.*

This brilliant new staging has taken the world by storm and has been hailed 'Les Mis for the 21st Century'. With scenery inspired by the paintings of Victor Hugo, the magnificent score of Les Misérables includes the songs; I Dreamed a Dream, On My Own, Bring Him Home, One Day More, Master Of The House and many more. Seen by over 120 million people worldwide in 52 countries and in 22 languages, Les Misérables is undisputedly one of the world's most popular musicals.

Storm the barricades for a ticket!

'A five-star hit – astonishingly powerful' (The Times)

We will be travelling to the theatre by coach on **Wednesday 13th November**. Students will need to be registered in the Drama Studio (A53) at 6pm and we aim to return to school at 12.00am. The total cost for the trip including transport and ticket for the performance will be £27.

Everyone's Talking About Jamie (suitable for years 9 and 10)

The smash-hit and critically acclaimed West End musical comes to Mayflower Theatre.

Funny, fabulous and feel good, this is the musical sensation for all the family and not to be missed!

Jamie New is sixteen and lives on a council estate in Sheffield. Jamie doesn't quite fit in. Jamie is terrified about the future. Jamie is going to be a sensation.

Supported by his brilliant loving mum and surrounded by his friends, Jamie overcomes prejudice, beats the bullies and steps out of the darkness, into the spotlight.

With an original score of catchy pop tunes by lead singer-songwriter of The Feeling, Dan Gillespie Sells and writer Tom MacRae (Doctor Who), this brand-new musical will have everybody talking about Jamie for years to come. Sixteen: the edge of possibility. Time to make your dreams come true.

We will be travelling to the theatre by coach on **Thursday 14th May**. Students will need to be registered in the Drama Studio (A53) at 6pm and we aim to return to school at 12.00am. The total cost for the trip including transport and ticket for the performance will be £27.

If you would like your son/daughter to attend please return the reply slip with payment for the first trip by Monday 10th June. Please note that places on the trip are limited and if oversubscribed places will be allocated on a random and equitable basis.

It is parents' responsibility to keep the school informed of any changes to contact numbers and medical information pertaining to their child. Parents can update via SIMS Parent Lite – details at <https://www.arnewood.hants.sch.uk/parents/sims-parent-lite> or via contact with reception. 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.

Yours faithfully

Mrs K. Watson
Head of Drama

REC1819TRIPS

Reply slip – GCSE Drama Trips (to be handed into Finance by Monday 10th June 2019)

Student's Name: **Tutor Group:**

Step 1 - Which Performances – please tick which shows you would like to book a place for.

Thirsty (compulsory for years 11, 12, 13)	Woman in Black	One Man Two Guvnors	Les Miserables	Everyone's Talking About Jamie

Step 2 – Payment

I enclose payment for:

- Thirsty Cash/cheque.
- Woman in Black Cash/cheque.
- One Man Two Guvnors Cash/cheque.
- Les Miserables Cash/cheque.
- Everyone's Talking About Jamie 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:

- Trip two payment must be received by Monday 16th September.
- Trip three payment must be received by Monday 14th October.
- Trip four payment must be received by Monday 11th November.
- Trip five payment must be received by Monday 9th December.

I give permission for my child to attend the trips as identified above.

I confirm my child's medical details are up to date either through SIMS Parent Lite or by written notice to the school.

I confirm the following:

- Woman in Black - my child will be collected from school by:
- One Man Two Guvnors - my child will be collected from school by:
- Les Miserables- my child will be collected from school by:
- Everyone's Talking About Jamie - my child will be collected from school by:
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Signature: **Date:**

Parent/Carer