



THE ARNEWOOD SCHOOL

Working Together - Shaping Tomorrow

Gore Road, New Milton, Hampshire, BH25 6RS

Tel: 01425 625400

Fax: 01425 625425

enquiries@arnewood.hants.sch.uk

www.arnewood.hants.sch.uk

10th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Workshop - Blood Brothers

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 play's 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 and Stephen Palfreman from Stage-Ed **on Friday 31st March from 10am-4pm**. Michael has played the roles of Mickey and Sammy and Stephen has played Eddie both on the West End and on tour, he 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 child to take part in the workshop, **payment must be received by Thursday 23rd February**. The cost of the workshop is £15. If you would like your child to attend please return the reply slip with payment to the Finance Office.



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

It is parent's responsibility to keep the school informed of any changes to contact numbers and medical information pertaining to their child. Parents can update via The Parent Portal (accessible on a laptop or computer) and/or Arbor App (mobile version of the Parent Portal). We recommend the use of The Parent Portal/Arbor App to view and update your child's details as it is the quickest and most secure way to keep all your details up to date. If you would like any support with this please contact our IT Helpdesk on 01425 625 431.

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 faithfully



Mrs K. Watson
Head of Expressive Arts

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Reply Slip – Return to the Finance Office by Thursday 23rd February 2023

Re: Workshop – Blood Brothers on Friday 31st March 2023

Student's Name: Tutor Group:

I give permission for my child to attend Blood Brothers workshop as detailed in the letter dated 10th January 2023. I enclose a full payment of £15.

I undertake to keep the school informed of any changes in contact numbers or medical information pertaining to my child.

Signed:
Parent/Carer

Date: