



6th October, 2010

TO ALL PARENTS OF S2 AND GCSE DRAMA GROUP

Dear Parents,

I am writing to let you know about the first two GCSE Drama theatre visits this year. As you know, it is a compulsory part of the course that students attend a range of different live theatre productions during their two year course.

This term we are launching this with the return visit of North Country Theatre to Queen Mary's on Thursday, 14th October. They will be performing their new touring production of "Blood Wedding in Wensleydale" in the Great Hall at 2.00 p.m. for all senior pupils, and the GCSE Drama students will be undertaking a substantial amount of preparation and follow-up work based on this production. If for any reason your daughter is absent from school on that day and therefore misses the performance, please can you arrange to take her to see another of the company's performances (details available from me or via their website www.northcountrytheatre.com). The cost of the performance will be £4.50 per pupil, and this amount will be added to your daughter's bill at the end of term.

North Country Theatre are one of England's leading small scale touring companies. Their work stands out for its wit and inventiveness, and I know that the performance will inspire the girls for their own work. In addition to the performance, the GCSE Drama students will also be taking part in a free practical drama workshop in the morning of 14th October with North Country's director, Nobby Dimon. This will provide them with an outstanding opportunity to learn from a leading practitioner in the field of devised theatre.

Our next trip will then be on Wednesday, 16th February 2011, when we will be visiting York Theatre Royal to see a new adaptation of Harper Lee's "To Kill A Mockingbird". This is one of the great novels of the twentieth century, dealing with the key issue of racism with heart and humanity. It should be a wonderful and inspiring evening. (Please note that the remainder of S2 will also be visiting this production with Mr. Hamilton, and that the text will form part of their English course as well as their drama one.)

We will be travelling by minibus to the theatre, leaving Queen Mary's at 6.00 p.m. and returning at approximately 11.00 p.m. The cost of the trip will be £8.50 per pupil, which again will be placed on pupils' bills at the end of term.

If you have any queries about any aspects of these visits, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Vaughan
Head of Drama