

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Year 7 and Year 8 – one-hour, Shakespeare drama workshop.**

We have managed to reserve a whole day of drama workshops relating to William Shakespeare's plays: 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (currently being studied by Year 7) and 'Romeo and Juliet' (currently being studied by Year 8) **in school on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

What will happen during each one-hour workshop?

Each English class will be allocated a one-hour, fast-paced drama session with a professional actor to explore the language, characters and key scenes from either 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (Year 7) or 'Romeo and Juliet' (Year 8). By putting the text up on its feet and by drawing out the emotions of the story, the scenes take on new life and new meaning. By the end of the workshop, pupils will be excited, engaged and perform key scenes which will in turn contribute to insightful writing and analysis of the play in future.

Last year, the current year 8 partook in a performance and workshop linked to Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' – it was a huge success and pupil voice indicated that pupils would like to be offered similar workshops in the future.

Why is watching this performance and partaking in the workshop so important?

- Enriches and extends pupils' understanding of the play of Shakespeare's plays which they will study and be assessed against in their English assessments as well as for their GCSE examinations in years to come.
- It will a very valuable way to explore the play they are currently studying, its key messages, characters, ideas, emotions and quotations, all of which pupils will need to analyse in their assessments.
- Pupils will be able to act out Shakespeare's words spoken on stage, observe how characters interact with one another and see how the themes are developed through the design of the set, the director's concept of the play, the props and the music.
- The audiences may have changed, but the characters Shakespeare created and the themes he explored in his plays are as relevant to 21st century audiences as they were to the Elizabethans.
- Shakespeare has to be one of the most challenging writers that students will encounter as part of their English course, so anything that can make the text more accessible, understandable and enjoyable for pupils, which performing a play does, should be a vital part of their studies and to enhance cultural capital.

Cost

The cost of the performance and workshop will be **£5.00**. This is a voluntary activity undertaken with the permission of the school governors which, under the terms of the new Education Act, we must make plain is additional to the curriculum. We can, however, only afford to run this trip if it is funded by voluntary contributions from parents and we are asking you to contribute £5.00 to cover the costs. Assistance may be provided for any family in receipt of Family Income Support. **If the voluntary contributions do not cover the cost of the trip it may have to be cancelled.**

Reply slip

If you would like your son/daughter to watch this performance and partake in the workshop, please complete, sign and return the slip to Ms Gabriel or I **NO LATER THAN Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022**. Payment for the workshop can be paid directly to Parent Pay. If you are unable to pay online, please contact the Finance Office who will be able to provide your child with a barcode to enable you to pay at a Pay Point store.

**It is hoped all Year 7 and Year 8 will be able to attend.** Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any one of the English team.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs M Gill  
Secondary English

**Seva School, Link House, Eden Road, Walsgrave Triangle, Coventry, CV2 2TB  
Tel: 024 7798 7619**

**REPLY SLIP:**

**Year 7 and Year 8 – one-hour, Shakespeare drama workshop.**

Pupil Name (full name) ..... Form .....

I give permission for my child to watch the performance and participate in the workshop.

I have paid **£5.00** online via Parent-Pay.

**Signature of Parent/Carer:** ..... **Date:** .....

Please tick box and sign below if you give **photo consent** of your child during the workshop.  
(Some photos will feature on social media and the school newsletter.)

**Signature of Parent/Carer:** ..... **Date:** .....