

10th September 2018

Dear parents and carers,

Re: GCSE Drama Examined Performance, 7th November, 6pm

The first GCSE Drama exam, the Devised Performance, will be on **Wednesday 7th November at 6pm**. In order for students to have sufficient time to prepare for this exam, after school Drama rehearsals will be held weekly on Wednesdays until 5pm. Their attendance is extremely important so that groups can progress and have additional teacher input.

Before the exam itself, all Year 10 and Year 11 Drama students will be 'off timetable' on the dates below. Rehearsals have been organised in order to limit impact on lessons, as well as maximise students' focused teacher time and their time in the performance space. There are four performance groups this year; two will share each of two preliminary rehearsal days and everyone shares the final day. Students will be 'off timetable' on:

EITHER Monday 5th November (two groups) **OR** Tuesday 6th November (two groups)

AND Wednesday 7th November (all students).

This is in order to fully prepare for the exam, which is worth 40% of their final GCSE Drama grade when combined with the 'devising log' they have been working on alongside their performance. For Year 10s, it is an excellent way for them to understand the process and the exam's requirements before their own devised exam at around the same time next year.

Stage lighting crew will be 'off timetable' for some of the above dates, to be arranged with individuals.

Each group of Year 11s will be assigned Year 10s as tech support: stage setting, prop management, sound cues, etc. As such, we request that Year 10s attend three after school sessions to work with their actors and get to know what is required of them: **Wednesday 17th October, Wednesday 24th October and Wednesday 31st October until 5pm**. If your child cannot make this commitment, we will return them to lessons on the two rehearsal days.

For the rehearsal days of 5th, 6th and 7th November, students will not need to wear school uniform as the work can be grubby and sweaty! As such, they should dress comfortably and sensibly. Year 10s will need to wear plain black just for the evening of the exam, Wednesday 7th November, as is customary for technical support. They should also bring a water bottle for these days.

You are all welcome to attend and support the students; please be in your seats for 5.45pm. The students will have free time from 3.25pm until 5pm, when they will need to attend relaxation and warmup sessions, as well as get into costume and makeup. They should remain at school in this time, as I will do, and should have a simple meal with them. I can offer access to a toaster, hot water and a microwave!

Thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing you on the evening of the exam.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J Parsons
Drama Teacher