



2 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Enrichment Wider Opportunity in Drama

The Drama Department are running a performance project with Highly Sprung Theatre Company. We are inviting Year 8 students interested in Drama to participate.

The Physical Fellowship Festival challenges young performers to engage in an intensive devising process, over two artist residency days in school with Highly Sprung artists, to create a 20-minute piece of thought provoking and inspiring physical performance to showcase their talents as part of the festival week. This year's festival theme is **Odyssey Re-Imagined**; an opportunity for young people to discover and celebrate ancient epic stories that bridge the past and present, reality and legend. The festival will bring to life tales of bravery, war, and resilience—echoes of battles fought millennia ago that still resonate today.

It will be an excellent opportunity to experience live theatre whilst developing an understanding of the drama strategies that they will learn and apply throughout their Drama course.

On Thursday 19 June and Friday 20 June students will spend two days working with a Highly Sprung Director towards a performance piece. The artist will be able to offer practical insights into the devising process and physical theatre techniques to develop performance material. Students will need to wear their PE kit for these workshops and to bring a bottle of water. Tutor time, break and lunchtime will be timetabled as normal. **Students will then be expected to commit to an extra rehearsal on Wednesday 25 June to continue rehearsing in preparation for the performance.**

The performers will then spend a day at the Belgrade Theatre on Thursday 26 June where students will be involved in all day workshops with professional theatre companies during the morning. Students will have a technical rehearsal in the afternoon followed by a dress rehearsal in preparation for a public performance at the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry, in conjunction with other local secondary schools and Highly Sprung Performance Company.

A minibus will transport the group to the Theatre on Thursday 26 June for the Physical Fellowship Workshops and technical rehearsal. Please make the necessary arrangements to collect your child from the Belgrade Theatre after the performance, which is due to finish at approximately 9pm. Please ensure your child wears appropriate loose clothing for the all-day practical workshop and brings a packed lunch and a dinner for the workshop, rehearsal and performance. Students will be required to stay at the theatre after the technical rehearsal until the evening performance has finished.

This opportunity has been subsidised by the Drama Department but there is a contribution of £35.00 towards the cost of the event. Payment and permission is required via ParentPay (www.parentpay.com) by Friday 23 May. Refunds are not possible if students are unable to participate. Students will be expected to behave appropriately at all times and attend the extra rehearsals in order to retain their place in the performance. Places are limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis.

Educational site visits are an additional opportunity for students to support their learning. Should we have any concerns regarding a student's behaviour prior to the trip, that student will be withdrawn from the trip and individual parents will be notified accordingly. Any monies paid will be non-refundable unless a suitable replacement can be found.

It is advisable that students do not take valuables on this trip. However, if it is necessary, please ensure that your own insurance or any that has been published as coming with the visit covers such items.

In terms of medicine, parents/carers must acquaint themselves with the policy here: [Link to Policy on Supporting Students with Medical Needs](#). Parents/Carers will need to ensure they pass on all medicines (prescription or over-the-counter ones) with a copy of the Parental Agreement (consent) form found on page 6. If you need a paper copy of the form provided for you, please ask me as the Visit Leader.

Thank you for your support

Debby Hill

Performance Faculty Leader, Subject Leader Drama