



3 May 2024

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 to participate in The Physical Fellowship Festival.

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's theme will be POWER –

*Understanding the concept of power is essential for young people as they navigate the complexities of the modern world. Power, in its various forms, shapes the dynamics of societies, relationships, and individual lives. When young people understand power it gives them the tools to speak up for what's right and make positive changes in their communities, standing up for justice, and being a responsible part of society. Physical Fellowship POWER is not just about knowing what power is, but about being able to use power to positively make a difference and create a fairer and better world for everyone.*

On Thursday 13 June and Friday 14 June students will spend two days working with a Highly Sprung Director towards the performance piece. The artist will 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 bring a bottle of water. Tutor Time, break and lunchtime will be timetabled as normal. **Students will then be expected to commit to extra weekly rehearsals to continue rehearsing the performance in preparation for the performance.**

The performers will then spend a day at the Belgrade Theatre on Thursday 4 July and 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 in the main theatre of 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 4 July for the Physical Fellowship Workshops and technical rehearsal. Please make the necessary arrangements to collect your child from the Belgrade Theatre after the performance. The performance will finish at approximately 9.15pm. 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 £33.00 towards the cost of the event. Payment and permission is required via the online ParentPay system ([www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)), using a credit or debit card. Monies are to be paid by Friday 24 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.

Thank you for your support



Debby Hill  
Performance Faculty Leader, Subject Leader Drama