



ABINGDON

From: Mr J Taylor – Director of drama

13 January 2012

To: Parents of Lower School Pupils

Lower School Drama Evening, Amey Theatre, Friday 3 February, 7pm

A very happy new year! I write in connection with a new event for all members of Lower School. As part of our on-going efforts to extend the range of opportunities for Abingdon boys, we have arranged an evening of short drama presentations by the eight Lower School Drama classes in First and Second Years. This takes place in the Amey Theatre on Friday 3 February, starting at 7pm. We very much hope you can support your sons as they take what may be their first theatrical steps on the Amey Theatre stage. There will be a range of items, including mask work, movement pieces, comedy sketches, adaptations from Evelyn Waugh's "Decline and Fall", Michael Palin's "Tomkinson's Schooldays", a dramatised extract from the film "Man on Wire", Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky" and more!

As you know, all Lower School boys receive one lesson of Drama per week in recognition of the value we attach to activities that build pupils' confidence and develop skills of teamwork and effective presentation. Until now, the only opportunity for the boys to put these lessons into practice in front of an audience has been the annual Lower School Drama production in the summer term. That can only accommodate a fraction of the boys who study Drama at this level, of course. So now, aided by a new school timetable that allows us more time each week to work with the pupils, we are offering every Lower School boy a chance to perform and gain experience of trying to communicate effectively in a large auditorium.

The evening of drama on Friday 3 February will be divided into two parts. The first, starting at 7pm, will feature all First Year boys, who will perform in one of four class presentations, each lasting about ten minutes. We expect this part of the evening to end by about 7.50pm. There will then be an interval, during which drinks will be available free of charge in the foyer. The second part will begin at about 8.05pm and feature all Second Year boys. Once again, there will be four ten-minute presentations. We expect the whole evening to finish by 9pm at the latest. You are warmly invited to attend. There is no charge, but we ask you to order tickets in advance to give us an idea of numbers. Having performed, First Year boys may depart at the end of the first half of the show with their parents if they wish, though naturally we encourage them to stay and see the rest of the performances.

The arrangements for the boys on that day are detailed overleaf. **Please note that we will require all pupils to remain at school between the end of the school day and the start of the show.** During that time, we will provide them with a hot meal in the Dining Hall and ensure they are looked after as they prepare for the show. The cost for the meal is £3.35, which can be added to your next end of term bill. Please indicate on the consent form that you are happy to meet this charge.

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

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www.abingdon.org.uk

Friday 3 February – afternoon timetable for First Year pupils

2pm-4pm	First Year Dress/Technical Rehearsal in the Amey Theatre
4pm-5.15pm	Take part in normal Friday after school activities eg homework or Other Half activity
5.30pm-6pm	Hot meal in Dining Hall
6pm-7pm	Get changed in Ingham Room and prepare for performances
7pm-c.7.50pm	First Year performances in Amey Theatre (4 x 10 minutes)
c.7.50pm	INTERVAL during which parents of First Year boys can, if they wish, collect their sons from the foyer of the Amey Theatre and depart. Alternatively, First Year boys will sit with their tutors in the balcony area of the Amey Theatre and watch the second half of the show, which will end by 9pm. They can then be reunited with their parents in the Amey Theatre Foyer.

Friday 3 February - afternoon timetable for Second Year pupils

4pm-6pm	Second Year Dress/Technical Rehearsal in the Amey Theatre
6.15pm-6.45pm	Hot meal in Dining Hall
6.45pm	Take seats in Amey Theatre Balcony area with tutors
7pm	Watch first half of the show from the Amey Theatre balcony
c.8.05pm-9pm	Second Year performances in the Amey Theatre (4x10 minutes)
c. 9pm	DEPART with parents (meet in Amey Theatre foyer after show)

I hope this new venture will appeal to you. Please use the form at the end of this letter to order tickets. **It would greatly assist us if you could return this form to the Arts Centre Secretary no later than Monday 30 January.**

Yours sincerely

Jimmy Taylor

Lower School Drama Evening, Friday 3 February, 7pm, Amey Theatre

I am happy for my son to have a hot meal, and for the sum of £3.35 to be added to my next end of term bill

Please enter the number of tickets you require

I require tickets for the Lower School Drama Evening on Friday 3 February at 7pm

YOUR SON'S NAME _____ TUTOR GROUP _____

*Please return this form **by 30 January, please**, to: Mrs Hart, Arts Centre Secretary, Abingdon School; or email it to her at: arts.sec@abingdon.org.uk*