



ABINGDON

20 April 2010

To: parents of boys in studying drama in 3rd year

Theatre Trip for 3rd year Drama Students to "Oh What a Lovely War", 20 May 2010

I write to inform you of a theatre trip which we are organising as part of your son's drama course. We have provisionally booked tickets to see a performance of *Oh What a Lovely War* at the Oxford Playhouse on Thursday 20 May at 7.30 pm. This is a further opportunity for your sons, who are learning about the skills involved in performing arts, to engage with and analyse a professional production, and we warmly encourage your sons to attend. Many of the students are now starting to devise their own drama performances along the lines of the GCSE "devised thematic" practical option, and one of the reasons this production is such a good one to see at this stage is that it was itself the product of a collaborative effort between the show's original actors and the director Joan Littlewood, involving everyone in research to find material in journals, letters, poems and songs of the First World War, as well as improvisation.

As this is an evening performance at a local theatre, there are a number of options for you. If you would like your son to stay at school after the end of the school day, he can have a hot meal in the dining room at 6.00 pm (cost £2.95 per pupil), and then travel to the theatre in a Pearce's Coach, leaving from the Abingdon Coach Park at 6.30 pm. Alternatively, if you wish, you may make your own arrangements for feeding, then delivering your son to the Oxford Playhouse by 7.15 pm.

After the show, pupils may return to Abingdon on the coach - in which case, please collect your son from the Coach Park c. 10.30 pm (actual arrival time will be confirmed nearer the date of the performance) **or**, if you give your permission (see the relevant section of the accompanying form), your son can either be collected from the Playhouse or make his own way home. Without parents' signed consent, we cannot leave pupils behind in Oxford. The cost of the ticket is £12.50, and if you opt for a meal and single or return coach travel, that will add a further £12.50. The relevant amount will be added to your next end of term bill. The trip will be supervised by Mrs Quick, Mr Taylor and Mr Loughe and all the standard risk assessment procedures will be carried out in advance. I would be most grateful if you would indicate whether you are happy for your son to participate in this trip by completing the form at the foot of this letter and returning it to me as soon as possible, **and certainly no later than Friday 30 April**. We need to pay for the tickets we require no later than 4 May, so please assist us to meet this deadline. Unfortunately, I am unable to accept an e-mail authorisation unless it is a scanned copy of the document with a parental signature. Very many thanks in advance for your assistance with this matter. I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Taylor
Director of Drama

Abingdon School Park Road Abingdon Oxfordshire OX14 1DE

Telephone: 01235 521563 Facsimile: 01235 536449

***Oh What a Lovely War* Drama Trip Consent Form**

Please complete/ delete as appropriate

I am happy for my son _____(Name) to take part in this trip and I am happy for the costs of the ticket, and if relevant, travel and food, to be added to my next school bill (either £12.50 for ticket only, or £25 for ticket, meal and one or two-way travel)

OR

My son will not be able to take part in this trip.

Please now confirm your preferences re. a meal before the show, and your instructions for transport to and from the theatre: please delete all that do NOT apply

1. Before the show

a) My son will have supper at school at 6.00 pm and travel on the coach to Oxford, departing Abingdon Coach Park at 6.30 pm

OR

b) I wish to make my own arrangements for feeding and transporting my son to the Playhouse to arrive there no later than 7.15 pm

2. After the show

a) My son will travel back to Abingdon on the coach after the production and I will collect him from the Abingdon Coach Park c. 10.30 pm

OR

b) I will collect my son from the Oxford Playhouse (front entrance) on Beaumont Street in Oxford after the production finishes (approximately 10.00pm)

OR

c) My son has my permission to make his own way home from the theatre after the performance

Please note: re. details of your emergency telephone contact number(s) & your child's dietary and medical conditions, we will rely on the school database records currently held on our system unless you notify us otherwise.

Signed _____(Parent/Guardian)_____Emergency phone no.

Please return by Friday 30 April to Jeremy Taylor, Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 1DE

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