

Date

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Re: 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Shakespeare School's Festival.

I hope that your son/daughter enjoyed the Shakespeare School Festival Summer School. I was very impressed with everyone's commitment and contributions to the week's activities.

Rehearsals are going well but timing is going to be tight and I do envisage having to use some of the October half term. Provisionally I am going to ask you to make sure that your children are available for rehearsal on Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th of October. We may not have to use all the time but on the other hand we may!

Lines must be learnt and scripts down by the 26th September.

We have discussed costumes and I am expecting everyone to source their own and bring them in to show me by Friday 11th October. The look is modern and appropriate to the characters.

Mechanicals are wearing manual work clothes such as boiler suits/overalls/aprons/ old looking work trousers (rips/stains/paint etc), high viz jackets... It would also be good if they had a small hand held prop that represented their trade.

Fairies are going for the punk/gothic look.

Lovers and other Athenians are going for the 'preppy', Jack Wills look. Google 'How to look Preppy', this has some useful ideas for clothes to wear.

The cast workshop is on Tuesday 8th October. Everyone will need a packed lunch that day. We will finish at 4pm at the Marine Theatre, if you would like you child to leave directly from the theatre rather than walk back to school with the group please email me to let me know.

I think most of you have your tickets for the Marine Theatre on the 6th November. Tickets can be bought from the Tourist Information Centre or on line. There are 50 tickets allocated for each of the three schools performing. If they don't all sell they will be available for anyone in the last week and on the night. It is expected that the audience will watch and support all three performances not just the one that they are connected to! The other two schools we are performing with are Greenford CE Primary School and Westfield Arts College, a special school. All should last about half an hour and each is doing a different play.

We will be at the theatre in the morning for a technical and dress rehearsal and be back at school for period 5. The cast will then have to be back at the theatre at 5.50pm that day. The order of the performances will not be decided until the day. The first school will perform at 7.00pm.

As previously mentioned if you can arrange for your child to see 'Othello', part of the National Theatre Live season on 26th September at the Electric Palace, Bridport, that would be wonderful. To experience Shakespeare acted well is motivating and inspiring.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions about any of the above on acruwys-finnigan@woodroffe.dorset.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Anne Cruwys-Finnigan
Head of Drama and Dance