



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN SCHOOL

Achieving Excellence Together

Headteacher Mr Steven Jefferies M.Ed

September 2017

Stratford Road
Henley-in-Arden
Warwickshire
B95 6AF

Tel No 01564 792364
Fax No 01564 792411

email: admin@henleyschool.com
www.henleyschool.com

Dear Parents

Henley in Arden School has been invited to take part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival at the Mill Arts House in Banbury, Oxfordshire on Thursday 23rd November 2017. Our school will be performing an abridged version of *As You Like It*. Two other schools will be joining us on the evening and will be performing their own versions of a well-known Shakespeare play. We have taken part in the festival before and it has always proved an unforgettable experience.

We are only inviting year seven students to participate and I would like to invite your child to an audition on Thursday 14th September or Friday 15th September in the Performing Arts Centre at 1:20pm during lunchtime. Students are permitted to eat their lunch in the Drama Studio or ask me for an early dinner pass. No prior preparation is required but the audition extract I have chosen will be available from outside my office in the Performing Arts Centre from Monday 11th September.

In addition to performing on a professional stage the festival holds a cast workshop at the venue on Wednesday 27th September during the school day. The workshop is led by members of the National Youth Theatre and it is designed to help the students familiarise themselves with the language of Shakespeare and understand the demands of performing on a professional stage. It is also an opportunity to meet the other participating schools.

During the morning of the performance in November the students will also be given the opportunity to have a dress rehearsal at the The Mill Arts Centre.

Please be aware that if your child is offered a part there will be after school rehearsals in the Performing Arts Centre. These rehearsals will take place on most Wednesdays preceding the final performance and will start at 3:30pm and finish at 5:00pm. A rehearsal schedule will be issued at a later date. I will also be asking parents to help contribute to the cost of travel for both the workshop and the dress rehearsal. This figure will be approximately £35. If you are eligible for any financial assistance then please contact me. On the evening of the performance parents/guardians arrange to drop off and collect their child as they are obviously invited to watch the festival.

If you have any queries or questions about the contents of this letter then please contact me via my email address which is mmccarthy@henleyschool.com. As I mentioned previously I feel the festival offers the parents, the students and the staff an experience which lives long in the memory.

"All the world's a stage..."

Yours sincerely

Matt McCarthy
Head of Performing Arts

