



FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Peterchurch, Herefordshire HR2 0SG - 01981 550 231 - admin@fairfield.hereford.sch.uk - Head Teacher: Mrs S L Gaston

23rd May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 9 *Unicorns, almost* – a play by Owen Sheers – Wednesday 6th June 2018

We are delighted to be able to offer all of Year 9 the opportunity to attend a special performance of Owen Sheers' new play, *Unicorns, Almost*. It is a one-man show about Keith Douglas, a WW2 poet, who died at the age of 24, three days after the Normandy landings. The trip to see *Unicorns, almost* in Hay-on-Wye falls on the anniversary of the D-Day.

Year 9s have all been studying both WW2 in History and for English they have begun exploring Owen Sheers' poems for their GCSE. The play will also support those students who have studied Drama this year or will take the course at GCSE. This is the Premiere of the play and it is set to tour in the next 12 months, so this is an exciting opportunity for the school.

The director is John Retallack, who also directed *Pink Mist* by Owen Sheers, and had sustained runs in Bristol, Oxford and a national tour. Dan Krikler, who plays Keith Douglas, had the lead role of Arthur in the *Pink Mist* tour last year.

The venue is The Swan Hotel in Hay-on-Wye, in a room that has been completely transformed by Lucy Hall, along with immersive soundscapes by Jon Nicholls and lighting design by Ben Pickersgill - all of whom have worked in the top theatres in the UK.

The performance will begin at 1:00pm, allowing students to catch the buses as normal at 3:25pm. In order to fulfil our safeguarding obligations, ALL students will come to school first and travel to the Swan and back in our coaches, returning to their homes on their normal school bus. Please do not ask for any changes to these arrangements; I apologise for any inconvenience they may cause but I am sure that you will agree that the safety of our students is paramount.

We will leave school at 12:30pm. Students should wear school uniform. They might also wish to bring some spending money as there be an opportunity to buy copies a special edition of the play script, published by Faber & Faber, which is also the programme.

The usual ticket price is £20 but we are able to offer the Fairfield pupils tickets at £10.50, thanks to The Story of Books, producers of the play. Please pay £10.50 on Parent Pay by Monday 4th June.

In order to fulfil our safeguarding obligations, ALL students will come to school first and travel to the show and back in our coaches, returning to their homes on their normal school bus. Please do not ask for any changes to these arrangements; I apologise for any inconvenience they may cause but I am sure that you will agree that the safety of our students is paramount.

Yours faithfully

J Emmett
Head of Ethics