18th June 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

As part of your son’s English Literature GCSE, he is required to study a 20th century drama; at Brymore we study the powerful, emotional and timeless musical ‘Blood Brothers’ by Willy Russell. ‘Did you ever hear the story of the Johnstone twins?’ First performed in 1981, Russell’s play introduces us to a single working class housewife who, in financial desperation, is forced to give up one of her twin boys. Despite the best efforts of Mrs Johnstone and the adoptive mother, Mrs Lyons, the twins’ lives become unavoidably linked and tragedy ensues, ‘Do we blame superstition for what came to pass? Or could it be what we, the English, have come to know as class?’

The opportunity to see the text in production is invaluable in terms of enhancing the understanding of the students, it’s also an amazing show! There is no film version and without seeing it live, so much of the humour and nuance are missed therefore not allowing students to develop a sophisticated understanding which is needed to secure the top grades. Students are also expected to comment on Russell’s staging and dramatic devices which is challenging if you haven’t seen it. Year on year students have stressed how invaluable this experience has been; this section of the Literature qualification is worth 25%. We have been lucky enough to secure tickets for the matinee performance on Wednesday 3rd November 2021, to Birmingham Hippodrome.

Students will leave school at 11:00am and return at approximately 8:00 pm. In order to make this trip possible we ask for a contribution of £47.50 to be paid to the finance office by Friday 23rd July 2021. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Students will be expected to wear full school uniform. A packed lunch will be provided for boarders and those in receipt of free school meals. It would be advisable to bring additional drinks and snacks and possibly a small amount of money.

As ever, we greatly appreciate your support at this important time in your son’s education.

Yours faithfully

Text

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Jayne Taylor-Lane

Head of English

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**Blood Brothers Trip – Birmingham Hippodrome**

**Wednesday 3rd November 2021**

**Student Name: …………………………………….** (please tick as appropriate)

I enclose a cheque for £47.50 deposit I have paid via the school’s finance office

I have paid by Scopay Please deduct £47.50 from my son’s activity account

Signature of Parent/Guardian ……………………….……....…….... Date ……….…..