



GIGGLESWICK
SCHOOL

News from the Performing Arts

Drama and Theatre Arts

The Drama Department will produce two exciting new plays next term: a reduced Shakespeare production of **Romeo and Juliet** and the whole school production **Sweeney Todd**. Pupils should have scripts with lines to learn over the summer holiday.

Key dates for these include:

- **Thursday 20 September** Year 9 and 10 students in the *Romeo and Juliet* cast will travel to Stratford to see the RSC production of *Romeo and Juliet*
- **Sunday 7 October** *Romeo and Juliet* rehearsals
- **Thursday 11 and Friday 12 October** *Romeo and Juliet* performances at 19:30
- **Sunday 11 and Sunday 18 November** *Sweeney Todd* rehearsals
- **Tuesday 27 November** *Sweeney Todd* rehearsals followed by performance for the school at 19:30
- **Wednesday 28 November to Saturday 1 December** *Sweeney Todd* performances at 19:30

All GCSE Drama and A-Level Theatre Studies students will be required to attend the performance of *A Heart at Sea* on Monday 15 October as part of their academic studies. Further details will be available from The Richard Whiteley Theatre. The performance begins at 19:30 and should finish no later than 20:45.

A-Level Theatre Studies students will be invited to join the annual trip to London's West End with the English Department. Further details will be sent to parents directly.

Music

Christmas Events

As a school with a Christian foundation, Giggleswick has always celebrated the arrival of Christmas prior to the end of term in December. This has been in many different guises and, in recent years, we have tried different formats in order to maximise the performance opportunities for pupils, while always trying to ensure their academic priorities come first.

Last year's *A Not So Silent Night* was considered to be a success and while there are areas for improvement, it is a format that we expect to return to in the future. However, to prepare a concert of this scale takes a lot of time and work from both pupils and staff. We also often find that in the majority of cases pupils who would be involved in an event such as *A Not So Silent Night* are also heavily committed to drama productions. We feel that it is in the best interests of the pupils not to commit them to a large scale concert so soon after a musical theatre production.

Therefore, we have decided to adopt the following model:

1. In a year where the school produces a musical, we will hold two *Evenings of Words and Music for Christmas* in the Chapel, prior to end of term. This will include congregational carols, music for the Choir and possibly small ensembles. There will also be range of different readings.
2. In a year where the school produces a play or drama, we will hold one *A Not So Silent Night* style concert and one *Evening of Lesson and Carols for Christmas*, which will follow a traditional pattern.

While this should run on a two-yearly cycle, there might be times when we choose to produce back-to-back musicals or vice versa. We are also working hard to ensure that the performance opportunity created by *A Not So Silent Night* is not lost in a musical theatre year, however these opportunities will exist in smaller events across the year.

Tickets for this year's events will be available from Monday 22 October.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please do get in touch with me.

Other key music dates for next term include:

- **Friday 5 October** Year 7 to U6 Parents Conferences with the Head of Instrumental Music (by appointment only)
- **Sunday 7 October** Harvest Festival Service – 10:00
- **Friday 12 October** Year 7 to U6 Parents Conferences with the Head of Instrumental Music (by appointment only)
- **Saturday 13 October** Schola will sing Fauré's *Requiem* at Fountains Abbey
- **Saturday 10 November** Some musicians will be involved in an event to commemorate the end of the First World War
- **Sunday 11 November** Service of Remembrance – 10:30
- **Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 December** *Evening of Words and Music for Christmas* – 19:30
- **Friday 14 December** Carol Service – 11:00

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