



# NEWS & VIEWS

*Be The Best You Can Be*

Headteacher: Mr I Smyrk

Traditional Values

Learning for the Future

Outstanding Personal Achievement



## Headteacher's Comment

Good afternoon, welcome to this week's edition of News and Views. It gives me great pleasure to share the photograph of Jamie Saddington (Yr 9), Harry Thorn (Yr 8), Holly Read (Yr 8) and Ethan Metcalf (Yr 10). They have been officially selected to represent England at next year's Karate World Championships in America. We are obviously extremely proud of them, their dedication and their achievements.



This week we have a Drama department special edition showcasing the exam work of our key stage 4 and 5 students. I was lucky enough to see some of these performances which were exceptional. Have a very good weekend!



## Drama – Performance and Live

This half term, the Drama department has come alive once again with the sound of live theatre! Each of our exam classes have performed either a scripted or devised performance in front of a live audience.

We started in November with Year 11 GCSE Drama students performing their final devised exam performances to Year 10. Year 11 were given the stimulus of Political Theatre and the word 'escape' from which to begin devising. The content of the final six performances ranged from gender inequality, terrorism and the war in Afghanistan.



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Year 12 and 13 A Level Drama and Theatre students performed to one another, extracts from their exam set texts; *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* by Dario Fo and *Woyzeck* by Georg Buchner. These served as a PPE practical exam as well as a revision opportunity, allowing both classes to see the plays from another point of view. Students had to explore the texts as a performer, designer and director which gives them an insight into how theatre makers take plays from page to stage.

We also managed to squeeze in a theatre visit for Year 12 to see *Manor* at the National Theatre; a darkly comic play set to a backdrop of an apocalyptic storm. The performance was inspiring and will be used by year 12 in their A Level written exam. It was fantastic to be back watching live theatre after twenty months!



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Year 10 performed for the first time in their GCSE Drama journey, extracts from *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* to an audience of Year 8 students this week. Having explored the play practically in class, along with exploring the techniques of Frantic Assembly who choreographed the stage show, groups had artistic freedom in their direction of their extract. As a result, we saw some creative uses of lighting, sound, movement and staging.



We are incredibly proud of all of our exam students who have shown resilience in the face of absences and a brilliant attitude to learning throughout their creative process. Giving students the opportunity to perform in front of an audience not only gives them valuable experience in performing, but also builds their confidence and allows them share their creative ideas. For some students, this was their first performance in front of a live audience and we are particularly proud of their courage and overcoming their nerves.

We would also like to thank Mr Scates, our performing arts technician, who has worked diligently to provide expert lighting and sound for every single group this term.

Well done one and all! The Drama team.



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