

# KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

February 2018

## Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

As I write this piece, 44 of our A Level students are soaking up culture, sun and spiritual experiences in Rome as part of their Art, Photography and Philosophy courses; a welcome refresher to their otherwise very hectic academic schedule. Many of the enrichments we offer students help to broaden their horizons and extend understanding and awareness within subjects they are studying. However, many are designed to strengthen character and resilience, to give them a voice on issues which impact on them and their world, and to develop a competitive edge. Opportunities illustrated in this edition such as the Mosaic Challenge, involvement in Amnesty, Duke of Edinburgh, contribution to our new book "We are Writers", are just a fraction of what goes on. I firmly believe that involvement in something different can create a spark which may lead to very unexpected directions and that everyone has untapped potential which should be explored. Coming up next half term we have our fabulous production of 'Hairspray'. I know this will be a truly memorable event so don't miss out! A copy of the booking form recently sent home can be found at the back of this newsletter.



Thank you to those of you who have attended our Parents as Partners events this term, the mental health session was very well received. It's never too late to learn strategies to support and help to avoid some of the stresses placed on young people today. The week of 12th - 16th March is dedicated to developing resilience and coping skills, and there will be a further event for parents in that week; worth dropping into! Further details will be shared after half term.

I hope your plans for half term go well and that you enjoy the break.

Gill Fox - Headteacher

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

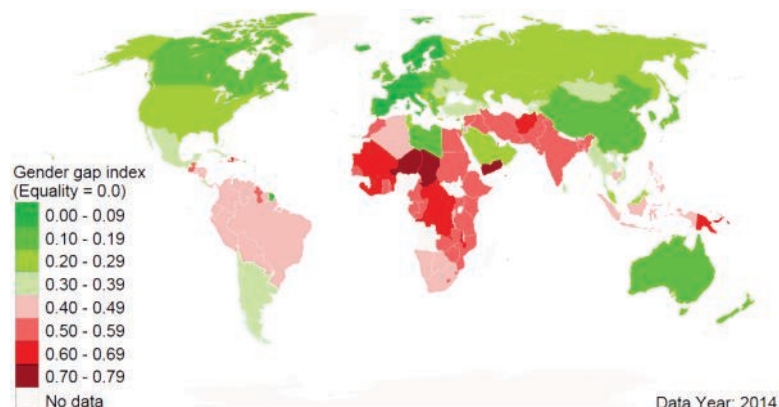
- ◆ **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** - Half Term Break
- ◆ **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February** - Year 9 Parents as Partners, 6pm - 8pm
- ◆ **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March** - Year 8 Ski Visit
- ◆ **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March** - Year 9 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March** - German Exchange Visit
- ◆ **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March** - Staff Training - **SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS**
- ◆ **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March** - Mental Health - Resilience and Coping Skills
- ◆ **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** - Year 8 Parents Evening, 3.30pm - 6pm
- ◆ **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March** - School Production of Hairspray
- ◆ **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March** - Spanish Trip
- ◆ **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March (Bank Holiday) - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April** - Easter Break
- ◆ **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April** - Start of Summer Term

## EVENTS, TRIPS & CLUBS

### WOMENS RIGHTS

#### Geography & History Ambassadors Host Centenary Celebration

The 100th anniversary of the Representation of the People Act 1918 was marked on 6 February. It was legislation that enabled all men and some women over the age of 30 to vote for the first time and paved the way for further suffrage activism to gain the right for all to vote, 10 years later. January 2018, has also marked a year since the first International Women's Marches, where millions of women mobilised across the world to say no to sexism. At such a pivotal time in women's history, both Geography and History



Ambassadors

saw this milestone as a chance to work cross-collaboratively across Humanities in order to shine a light on the history of women, to celebrate the anniversary of female suffrage and to raise awareness on the struggles that still exist for many women all around the globe today.

The UK suffragette movement was born in Manchester in October 1903, when Emmeline Pankhurst held the first meeting of the Women's Social and Political Union in her home at 62 Nelson Street. So on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, the Ambassadors felt it was fitting to hold the first meeting on Female History and Fourth Wave Feminism at Kings Norton Girls' School. The History Ambassadors brought their knowledge of The Suffragette Movement to light whilst the geographers used maps and topical news articles to demonstrate world gender inequality issues today. The event was enjoyed by all those who attended and the Ambassadors are keen to work together on future projects, especially those to do with women's rights and equality.

In addition to the event, five KNGS students were interviewed by TV channel 'Made in Birmingham' about their thoughts on the 'Fight for the Right' film plus

their own personal inspirations and aspirations as modern day women.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

#### Festive Celebration of Talent

The students at KNGS worked really hard to put on an amazing Christmas Concert which was a great way to end the term on a musical high. There were performances from a variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles, all showing a high degree of musicality and confidence in performance. On behalf of all of the students that took part I would like to thank the music service and music service staff for their tireless support and time. It makes such a difference to the musical outcomes of our students.

**Coming up soon** on the musical calendar at KNGS is our musical production of 'Hairspray'. Performances will take place on March 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing you there!

**Opening a World of Opportunities**





KNGS PROUDLY PRESENTS...

Tickets on Sale Now!

MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> - THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
2018

7.00pm at Kings Norton Girls' School

# hairspray

The Broadway Musical

Welcome to the 60's where Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart, is on a mission to follow her dreams. *You Can't Stop The Beat* as she sets out to dance her way onto national TV with *The Nicest Kids In Town*. Tracy's audition makes her a local star and soon she is using her new-found fame to fight for equality, bagging local heartthrob Link Larkin along the way!

**Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased through ParentPay.**

Students will need to bring a **receipt and booking form** to the SEN Office at break time on Monday's and Thursday's to collect your tickets and reserve seats. All seats will be numbered and allocated on a first come first served basis.

Tickets WILL NOT be available on the night.

Booking Forms have been sent home but a copy can also be found on the back of this newsletter.

Lyrics by Scott Wittman & Marc Shaiman. Music by Marc Shaiman. Book by Mark O'Donnell & Thomas Meehan.

Based upon the New Line Cinema film written by John Waters. This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger

## WINTER FESTIVAL

### Year 7 Science Club

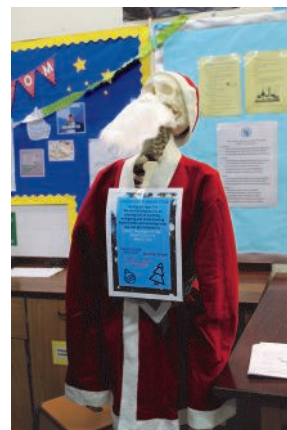


This included the chemical magic of making snow indoors and turning everyday coins into silver and then gold. The Year 7 students produced beautiful baubles through chromatography and even helped Santa's elves to work out how their cookie mixture had gone awry!

We are looking forward to investigating the heart at the Valentine Science Club.

In December the Year 10 Science ambassadors helped to make the Year 7 Science Club a winter wonderland.

Amongst decorative snow flakes, bauble borders and multi-coloured paper chains, the club explored the science behind the season.



Opening a World of Opportunities

## OPEN EVENT

### KNGS Amnesty Group

Amnesty International is a worldwide charity dedicated to restoring freedom to those whose human rights are not being respected.

On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, our school's Amnesty group held an 'Open House' event at lunchtime to spread the powerful message of equality to Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. Visitors, who had received personalised invitations to the event, participated in the 'Stop Indefinite Detention' campaign by colouring in doves which symbolise freedom and peace.



Overall, the event was a great success, and we are proud of how many Year 7 and 8 students were interested in what we do and eager to lend their support to refugees and others in need of help.

This shows what a strong, forward-thinking community we are at KNGS, and Amnesty group members are excited about welcoming new recruits to join us in our important campaigns in the coming half-term.

*Scarlett Rea, Year 9*

---

## MOSAIC ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE

### Year 9 Test Their Entrepreneurial Skills

This half-term fifty Year 9 students have been given the fantastic opportunity to take part in the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge, an initiative of The Prince's Trust. This is an inter-school business and enterprise competition which aims to increase young peoples understanding of business concepts and how they can apply them. The girls were also able to develop a number of other transferable skills such as teamwork, lateral and creative thinking and clarity of expression.



The first stage of the competition, involved taking part in a business simulation game, which has now been completed, under the guidance and support of mentors from Lloyds Banking Group. In early March the top five scoring schools in each region will then be invited to a Regional Finals event and then regional winners will then be invited to the National Finals in London in May. Well done to all the students who took part - fingers crossed on getting through to the next stage!

**Opening a World of Opportunities**



## AUTHOR VISIT

### Students Meet Alwyn Hamilton

On Monday 29th January 2018 ten students from Kings Norton Girls' School were invited to King Edwards Camp Hill Boys to see the author Alwyn Hamilton. She has written several novels including *Rebel of the Sands* and *Traitor to the Throne*.

It was a very entertaining afternoon and the students really enjoyed the opportunity to be able to purchase books and spend time talking to the author whilst they got their books signed.



---

## STEM EVENT

### Year 7 Visit Bishop Challoner

A group of Year 7 students visited Bishop Challoner school on December 20th for their annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) event. The girls took part in a variety of activities, ranging from town planning to the construction of balloon-powered rockets. They also discussed STEM-related careers with two female engineers and designers and were able to enjoy a virtual voyage into space via a portable planetarium!

The girls responded enthusiastically to the various tasks and worked superbly within their teams. In addition, they were praised by the organisers of the event for their excellent behaviour and proactive attitude. KNKS just failed to take one of the prizes in what was a closely fought contest between a number of different schools. We hope to take another group of girls to the event this December; hopefully we can go one better and secure a top three place!

---

## 'TURNING PAGES' READING GROUP

This term has seen the launch of a pupil led reading group called 'Turning Pages'. It has been set up by an enthusiastic group of Year 7's and also one Year 8. They will be meeting on a fortnightly basis in the Learning Hub to discuss their current book.

The first book they have chosen to read is *Bone Sparrow* by Zana Fraillon which is a story about a refugee boy, Sunhi, who has spent his entire life living in a Australian detention centre after his mother and sister fled the violence of a distant homeland.



### Opening a World of Opportunities

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH UPDATE

Well done to Year 10 students who are doing lots of really valuable work in the community as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award sections. Students have been taking part in charities, playgroups, dance classes as well as learning a range of new skills including map reading, photography, cooking and much more! Their most recent achievement was



completing their St John's "Young First Aider" award



ready for their upcoming expeditions. All girls did KNGS proud and comments from the course leaders commended their mature and measured approach towards the important life skill of first aid.

Students will be going on expeditions in May and June, I'd like to wish them good luck and a special mention should go to all staff that supported students during this year to date and have acted as

assessors for the various skills girls were advancing in their own time.

*Mr Willis*

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Student Leadership Group has been busy this half term planning some exciting events for the coming half-term. Plans have been made to celebrate International Women's Day with an event on the 8<sup>th</sup> March and assemblies during that week. The group are also working on fundraising ideas for Comic Relief which will also take place in the coming half term.

In addition to these events, the group are continuing their collaboration with Swanshurst School. A planning day took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> February with 5 of our group and 5 student leaders from Swanshurst. Pupils from St Francis School will be invited to workshops based around positive mind-set at Swanshurst School on the 16<sup>th</sup> March.



Finally, the group has been involved in an important consultation about how to heighten the profile of "STARDOM" in the school, and have more of an ownership of it. The girls have been involved in creating a "STARDOM" board and have come up with some interesting ideas which are going to be explored.

## SUCCESSES

### PUBLISHED AGAIN!

#### English Ambassadors Prepare to Showcase Our New Creative Writing Book

For the second time, the KNGS English Faculty has helped students to become published authors in our very own school book, professionally published by Scholastic Press. Keen writers from all year groups have taken part in the book, with stories, poems, travel writing and creative responses to literary texts compiled to make up a different and exciting read. The book has been organised in thematic sections, so whether you particularly like reading magical stories or prefer serious subject matter such as conflict, you can easily find something to appeal to your tastes. The English Ambassadors, who assisted Dr O'Mahony and Mrs Edwards with compiling the book, proofreading it and creating the cover design, are now busy planning our official launch event. Coinciding with World Book Day (1st March), this will include readings by students and the opportunity to have your copy signed by the many talented young authors featured. We are all looking forward to the launch, which will represent the amazing culmination of a year of hard work from both KNGS students and staff.



*Mia Goldberg, English Ambassador, Year 9*



## SPORTING UPDATE

### West Midlands Regional Schools Netball Tournament 2018

In October 2017 KNGS U16's won the Birmingham Schools Tournament and qualified to take part in the West Midlands Regional Schools Tournament on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Having reached the same tournament last year, the girls were determined to succeed and improve on last year's performance. With a positive mindset from the start, the girls played some excellent netball throughout the six games and finished second in their group. Next came the closely fought semi-final, which was thrilling to watch. Unfortunately two goals converted by the opposition in the last minute resulted in Higham Lane taking the win.

A great performance from all girls involved - Isobella Ivory, Felicity Ivory, Gabrielle Dickson, Jade Channer, Isabel Ledgister, Poppy Ellis, Katie Wilson and Amber Williams. Well done!

### West Midlands Schools Cross-Country Championships

A massive well done to Belle & Lilly Skidmore (Y7) and Esme Abraham (Y8) competed in the above event at Warley Woods on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January. The event was a selection race for the ESAA XC Champs in Leeds mid-March for age-groups from Y8 upwards, with the top 6 being automatically selected to represent West Mids. The races were held in the snow and mud and the girls performed admirably in very trying conditions.

In the Minor Girls (Y7) race (distance 1.9K) Belle finished 22<sup>nd</sup> in 08:38, and Lilly finished 27<sup>th</sup> in 08:56. In the Junior Girls race (Y8&9 combined - 2.5K) Esme Abraham finished 24<sup>th</sup> position in 12:07. They were a credit to the school and deserve full praise for their achievements.

### Gymnastics - Birmingham Schools Novice Competition

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, KNGS girls took part in a gymnastics competition held at Edgbaston High School for Girls. As one of the few non selective schools taking part, KNGS didn't fail to impress!

The Under 12 Blue team came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, the Over 12 Blue team came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and the Over 12 Red team came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. There were also a number of individual successes too with Sarah Coffey coming 2<sup>nd</sup> on vault, 1<sup>st</sup> on floor, 1<sup>st</sup> all round as an individual, Sophie Madden achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> vault, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 2<sup>nd</sup> all round as an individual and Zee Saleh-Dunkley coming 2<sup>nd</sup> on vault! A huge well done to all the girls involved - very impressive!



### Basketball

Our Yr 9 and Yr 11 Basketball teams have had a strong season so far with convincing wins against Bishop Challoner (9's, 30-4), Thomas Aquinas (9's, 29-6) (11's, 30-18) and Aston Manor (9's, 20-8) With four games still to play we are in a strong position to finish top of the league. The Year 9 team have also progressed to the Level 3 School Games Competition which will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

Well done to the girls and good luck for remaining matches!

*PE Dept*



## BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS SKI VISIT

### Torgon, Switzerland

The Birmingham schools ski visit to Switzerland will see 92 pupils total from 4 Birmingham schools travel to Torgon at the beginning of March - 30 of our Year 8's will be taking part. Please follow updates on the news feed of the school website or follow the twitter feed [@KNGS\\_ski](#) / [@KNGSlife](#).

[Opening a World of Opportunities](#)

## HOUSE NEWS

### CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

This year, students really outdid last year's Christmas Jumper Day. They wore unique and wonderful jumpers which drew many compliments and attention! The teachers did well to keep up with these amazing students. There was a real festive spirit about KNKS!



### RETURN OF THE GAUNTLET GAMES

The much loved Gauntlet Games have returned by popular demand.

The Games will start up after Spring half term during Friday lunch times with each form competing across houses.

The first round will be bench ball, a popular activity with our students. Watch this space for results next term! Let the games begin!!!



### STARDOM

As part of our celebration of STARDOM and achievement amongst our students we would like to congratulate all of the students that have received 'Student of the Week Award' this half term:



**KELLER HOUSE:** Lucy Doerry (K6), Abigail Smith (K6), Singe Zhang (K4), Belle Skidmore (K6), Lilly Skidmore (K7), Zee Saleh Dunkley (K4) & Rachel Collins (K8)

**NIGHTINGALE HOUSE:** Masie Saunders (N7), Jess Coley (N6), Kyanna Harney (N5), Sarah Coffey (N1) & Jodie Carreon (N3)

**GOODALL HOUSE:** Izzy Brookes (G4), Henna Ahmed (G4), Esme Abraham (G4), Isabella Ivory (G8), Felicity Ivory (G5), Jade Channer (G5), Poppy Ellis (G3) & Megan Watson (G7)

**SHARMAN HOUSE:** Erin Harris (S6), Jennifer Hwang (S7), Leah Penhallow (S3), Evie Flemming (S4) & Eve Godsall (S5)



## SIXTH FORM NEWS

### A LEVEL CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

#### Year 13 Class of 2017



Friday 22nd December saw the return of many of our **Year 13 - Class of 2017**, for a celebratory event where the students were individually presented with A-Level certificates. We were also very honoured to have KNGS Alumna, the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Anne Underwood as our Guest of Honour.

In addition to words of congratulations, inspiration, as well as advice for the future from Ms Fox and the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, we also enjoyed a stunning musical performance from the Deputy Head Girl - Lexi Coley, and a poetry reading from Head Girl, Tara Smith.

It was a wonderful event and lovely to see the students come back together to celebrate their individual successes.



### ADMISSIONS

For September 2018 we have received in total **269** applications – this includes both internal (**113**) and external (**156**) students.

Of those 156 external students: 62 of them are boys. Applications range from a variety of schools including KNBS, Bournville, Turves Green Girls' & Boys', and Kings Edwards.

We look forward to welcoming our potential new students for September 2018!

### FUNDRAISING - MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

On 2nd February, Sixth Form students participated in raising money and awareness for Muscular Dystrophy. The event was "Go Orange!" where students in the Sixth Form wore an orange item of clothing for the day and contributed. They raised over £200 which was fantastic! Thank you to everyone who got involved.

### CHALLENGE DAY

On 13th February, Year 12 visited the University of Birmingham as part of Challenge Day to gain a further understanding of Higher Education. The day was structured so that students could learn about how to begin researching a University, what student life is like, and the importance of Year 12 when it comes to laying those foundations of knowledge. The day culminated in a 2pm session back at Sixth Form where students participated in post-18 workshops on choices and options, if they were keen to think about their options besides University.

Year 13 took part in a Health Day with workshops focused on sexual health, alcohol, healthy eating at University, and mental relaxation.



## KNGS DRIVE FOR OUTSTANDING ATTENDANCE

National figures have shown a constant increase in attendance over the past three years.

Thank you to all those parents who have worked hard to keep their daughters attendance as close to 100% as possible.

KNGS does follow the councils legal procedures with regards to ensuring high attendance and there is an updated letter regarding this on our school website - a copy can be found at [www.kngs.co.uk/Parent-Resources](http://www.kngs.co.uk/Parent-Resources)

Together lets make it 4 years increased attendance in a row!

**Opening a World of Opportunities**

*Mr Gunn*

## SAFEGUARDING & BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

This January the schools safeguarding and child protection policy has been updated to include DFE guidance for schools on physical intervention and searching.

I have summarised some of the key aspects for you below.

The school already has the power to search students without consent and use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances to conduct a search for the following "prohibited items":

- knives and weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property.

The changes to our policy are around banned items, locker searches and electronic devices (section 20.5)

### School banned items:

If a member of staff suspects a student has a banned item in their possession, we can instruct the student to turn out their pockets or bag and if the student refuses, the teacher and school can apply an appropriate sanction. School banned items can be found in appendix 4 of the Behaviour for Learning Policy. You will be advised of any amendments to this visit immediately prior to any policy update.

### Locker searches:

KNGS make it a condition of having a school locker that the student consents to having these searched for any item whether or not the student is present.

### Electronic Devices:

Staff authorised by the Headteacher may lawfully search electronic devices, without consent or parental permission, if there is a suspicion that the student has a device prohibited by school rules, or the staff member has good reason to suspect the device may be used to:

- cause harm, disrupt teaching, break school rules, commit an offence, cause personal injury, or damage property.

Any data, files or images that are believed to be illegal will be passed to the police as soon as practicable, including pornographic images of children, without deleting them.

Any data, files or images that are not believed to be unlawful, may be deleted or kept as evidence of a breach of the school's behaviour policy.

Can I take this opportunity to remind parents that mobile phones must be switched off and out of sight from the moment students enter the school gates (these are the inner gates next to the sixth form block) until they leave the school gates, (outside the building but inside the school gates is NOT allowed). Phones seen out in school are confiscated.

*Mr Gunn*

## A POLITE REQUEST - COMPLAINTS FROM RESIDENTS

Following the receipt of a **number of complaints** from our local residents, St Joseph's and other road users, please can we firmly ask all parents/carers who drop off and pick up students to park considerably and pay attention to the road markings around the school gates.

We remind you that it is illegal to **stop or park/wait on the zig zag lines**. These road marking are in place to safeguard students. Please avoid these when collecting your child.

We have also received **complaints from our neighbours relating to littering by parents collecting children**. Please can we ask you to be respectful to our neighbours and the environment both inside and outside the school gates by not disposing of litter on the roadside whilst waiting to collect students.

**Please also remember that, excepting for those with restricted mobility, we do not allow cars down the school drive to drop off or pick up students. This put others at risk.**

Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

[Opening a World of Opportunities](#)





KINGS NORTON  
GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

*proudly presents*

# hairspray

The Broadway Musical

**MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup>-THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018**

**7.00pm at Kings Norton Girls' School**

Welcome to the 60's where Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart, is on a mission to follow her dreams. *You Can't Stop The Beat* as she sets out to dance her way onto national TV with *The Nicest Kids In Town*. Tracy's audition makes her a local star and soon she is using her new-found fame to fight for equality, bagging local heartthrob Link Larkin along the way!

**Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased through ParentPay.**

Please bring your receipt and the slip below to the SEN Office at break time on Monday's and Thursday's to collect your tickets and reserve your seats. All seats will be numbered and allocated on a first come first served basis.

**Tickets WILL NOT be available on the night.**

Lyrics by Scott Wittman & Marc Shaiman. Music by Marc Shaiman. Book by Mark O'Donnell & Thomas Meehan.

Based upon the New Line Cinema film written by John Waters. This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Limited.

I ..... the parent of ..... in form .....  
require the following seats (put the amount required in the appropriate boxes).

	Ticket £7
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	

Total Cost: £..... (paid on ParentPay)

