14th April 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Year 12 & 13 Drama & Theatre Studies – Production of EQUUS – Menier Chocolate Factory Theatre, London, 8th May 2026

We are writing to you regarding an upcoming theatre trip, taking our A Level Drama students to see a live production of *Equus,* which is one of their set texts, at the Menier Chocolate Factory Theatre in London.

Attending a live performance is an invaluable part of studying drama. While students engage with the play in the classroom, seeing it performed on stage deepens their understanding of key elements such as plot, characterisation, and structure. A live production allows students to experience the playwright's intentions more fully, including the use of staging, lighting, sound, context and actor interpretation. This can significantly enhance their analytical skills and support their written exam responses, all vital for their final written examination.

Additionally, watching professional actors interpret complex roles helps students to appreciate character development in a more nuanced way. It also provides insight into directorial choices and how meaning is communicated to an audience, which is an essential component of their course.

However, I would like to make you aware that although *Equus* is generally considered suitable for young people aged 14 and above, the play does include some scenes of nudity. These are presented in a serious and non-gratuitous manner, in keeping with the themes and intentions of the play.

We fully understand that some students may feel uncomfortable with this aspect of the performance. Therefore, please note that participation in this trip is not compulsory.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The details of the trip are as follows:

Location: Menier Chocolate Factory, London
Date: Friday 8th May 2026
Meet time: 5pm
Performance start time: 7.30pm

Please note, students will be expected to meet at MK train station no later than 5pm. We are awaiting confirmation of final running time from the theatre and an approximate collection time from MK station following return from London, will be notified in due course.

The cost of the trip will be £57.00 which includes theatre ticket and train/tube travel costs to London.
A deposit of £10 is requested by Thursday 16th April to secure a place. We apologise for this very short deadline, but the theatre will only hold tickets until this date. We will be unable to purchase tickets after this date. The remaining payment is requested by Tuesday 5th May.

Please be advised that should a place be booked for your son/daughter and they later withdraw, we always endeavour to find a replacement student for the place. However, if this is not possible, no refunds of monies paid will be forthcoming.

Should concerns be raised by school staff regarding behaviour or attendance issues of students, the school reserves the right to withdraw places on the trip at any time. Should this become necessary no refunds of monies paid will be forthcoming.

The trip is now open and active on TSCO Scopay for all eligible students. If you wish your son / daughter to go on this trip, the deposit of **£10** is requested by **Thursday 16th April** to confirm their place, with remaining payment of **£47** requested by **Tuesday 5th May**. Please note that making payment is also taken as granting consent to attend. Please be aware that if insufficient funds are received or if numbers of students are too low, it may be necessary to cancel the trip. All payments for school trips/events are non-refundable unless otherwise stated.

All payments should be made via TSCO Scopay. If you require any assistance, please contact the Trip Administrator trips@sponne.org.uk or on 01327 350284.

As this is a curriculum related activity connected to their course, any students eligible for the Post 16 Bursary may use this to offset the cost of the trip and should contact Sarah White, on swhite@sponne.org.uk or on ext 7119 at the school for further information.

This letter is now on the School Website, Parents, Letters Home, Year 12 and Year 13

Yours faithfully,

M McGlen & N Munro
Drama Department