

12 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

English, Media and Drama Week 2020: Years 7-9

The week of 19-23 October is our annual English, Media and Drama week, when we celebrate books, drama, film and writing of all kinds. Given the current situation regarding COVID-19 we have limited the activities that will be available this year to ensure the safety of all students and staff; consequently, the key events will be for years 7-9 only and will take place on 23 October when students in those year groups will have an 'off timetable' day with the events set out below. The theme this year is 'Hidden Stories' in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

On 23 October we are delighted to be welcoming via Microsoft Teams, the authors of some of the novels students have been studying this term. Year 7 and 8 will have talks and a workshop from both Sita Brahmachari and Candy Gourlay and there is an opportunity to purchase books in advance by these authors. Year 9 will have talks and a workshop from our Patron of Reading, Sophia Bennett; and the poet Ella Duffy. All talks have been pre-recorded and will be streamed during lessons. Students in years 7 and 8 are compiling questions to be sent in advance to Sita and Candy who will record their responses. These activities will take place in the students' usual classrooms and will adhere to the school's risk assessment.

23 October will also be our annual 'Character Day' when students in years 7 to 9 are invited to dress up as a character from a book, TV programme or film and the 'no onesies rule' remains in place. We would, as always, ask students to be mindful of others in relation to their costume choices. To raise funds for our school's development trust we will be asking for a £1 voluntary donation and collections will take place first thing on the Friday morning.

We do hope that all students in years 7 to 9 will take full advantage of these activities to really celebrate the joy of reading, writing, film and drama.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Creak
Head of English, Media and Drama

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