BUDMOUTH ACADEMY WEYMOUTH

Principal Sara Mashike
Budmouth Academy Weymouth
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6th November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: GCSE & A Level Drama Trip – 'Punch' at the Chichester Festival Theatre 25th February 2027

We are delighted to offer our Drama students the opportunity to see the highly acclaimed Nottingham Playhouse play 'Punch' directed by James Graham. This trip is open to all Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama students, as well as Year 12 and 13 A Level Theatre Studies students. The recommended age for the play is 12+, *Punch* is a powerful, true-story-based play exploring the devastating consequences of one moment of violence. It follows Jacob Dunne, a young man whose actions lead to the death of another teenager, and his subsequent journey towards understanding, responsibility and change through Restorative Justice. The play explores some challenging subject matter, including violence, death, bereavement and strong language. These themes provide an important opportunity for discussion and reflection.

Watching a live professional performance is an invaluable experience that will deepen students' understanding of the many elements of theatre they study and apply in their own work. During the trip, we will focus on lighting, sound, set design, costume, and the actors' physical and vocal skills, as well as character interaction on stage.

Attendance on this visit is essential, as:

- Year 10 students will complete a mock assessment based on the production.
- Year 11 students will write about the performance in their Component 3 written exam in May.
- Year 12 and 13 students will also draw on this live theatre experience in their final written exams.

Students should attend school in full academy uniform, attend their usual tutor time, and Period 1 and be ready to leave Budmouth Academy **at 10 am**. Students need to bring a packed lunch or money as they will have free time to buy food in the city centre as the theatre is central and 10 minutes from Chichester City Centre. We expect to return to the school car park at approximately 7:00 pm when students will be picked up by parents/guardians. The same excellent behaviour that is shown at school is expected by all our students when representing Budmouth Academy on the trip.

The total cost of the trip is £28.00, payable via the ParentMail app by Friday 6th December 2026. **This will go live on ParentMail on Monday 9th November at 8.00am.**

As the trip is a compulsory part of the GCSE and A Level drama curriculum payment is required. I*f you do require financial assistance, please contact me using the email address below.*

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs K Sheppard

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