

# It's that time of year again....oh no it isn't!

Millthorpe's Panto programme

Pantomime is a uniquely British theatrical genre with a long history, and draws influences from Ancient Greece and Italian Commedia dell'arte, to Victorian Music Hall and the celebrity culture of today. Pantomime is back at the Barbican this Christmas with 'Robin Hood & the Babes in the Wood.' The team behind this year's production has been working with Mrs Sladen since July to offer our students the most amazing drama experiences in the lead up to the actual professional performance this December.

## **July 2017 Panto in a Day**

Just before the end of the summer term, the Barbican welcomed a group of lucky Year 7 students to take part in a full day of creative learning on site at the Barbican. The cast and creative team taught students about the history and traditions of panto, performance elements such as stock characters, dance and music, and also investigated what is involved in the technical side of a production.

## **October 2017 Panto Workshop**

During the Autumn term, we have held numerous workshops run by Jamie Wilson, the Producer of 'Robin Hood & the Babes in the Wood.' These fun packed practical panto sessions have included an introduction to the history of pantomime, and a chance to have a go at playing the characters and telling the jokes! All Year 7 students took part in workshops in the first half term, giving the perfect opportunity to get to know each other (and their form tutor!). A lucky group of Year 9 students were selected to take part in another workshop later that half term. In addition, Jamie provided bespoke sessions for all GCSE students including giving information and advice for students looking for a career in the theatre!

## **Work Placements**

Following the workshops with our GCSE students, the production company amazingly offered the chance for 5 of our students to take up work placements alongside the professionals during their performance season! This once in a lifetime opportunity was offered to all Year 10 Drama and Music students, with those interested submitting a written application of interest before attending an interview with the Producer himself! The appointed students take up their roles this Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December and will work as assistants to the Director, Music Director, Wardrobe Manager, Choreographer and Stage Manager for the next 7 days.

We have been in a uniquely privileged situation to allow so many of our students to be involved in this programme this term and for this we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Jamie and his team for continuing to offer us more and more! Break a leg guys!