



Mrs P J Bell
Director of Drama
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5th January 2012

Dear Parents,

Over the next term your son/daughter will be involved with rehearsals for the senior school play, *The Threepenny Opera*, by Bertolt Brecht.

Set against the backdrop of Victorian London, all is not well on the eve of the coronation of the next monarch. Mac the Knife, Peachum the beggar King, and Tiger Brown run the *dog eat dog* world shown through the sordid Soho streets through manipulation and fear. *Threepenny Opera* remains one of Brecht's undisputed classic works, highlighting corruption and greed and the capitalist system turned on it's head.

This will be performed at the Arts Centre over three nights: 27th , 28th and 29th March at 7.30pm. Due to the short term and the complex nature of this play with songs, I will be using most evenings (4.45-6pm and on Tuesday and Thursday 8-9pm) in addition to some Sunday evenings for rehearsal (6pm-9pm). Not all cast members will be needed at all times and I will do my utmost to ensure that all students are given free nights per week to complete prep and revision throughout. In late evening rehearsals I will try to use only boarders or Ellesmere residents, although closer to the performance this may not always be possible. I have been told about cast members' other School commitments, which I will work around. However, it will be essential that cast members are clear each week when they are required and they will need to plan how they might organise homework and other extra-curricular activities. There will inevitably come a time in the last weeks prior to performance when rehearsals will become more intensive for everybody, but the students have already been made aware of this in our initial meeting last term.

Every Friday I will be giving out rehearsal schedules for the following week via email and these will also be displayed in houses. The Sunday rehearsals suggested are shown below. If your child cannot attend any of these dates, I would appreciate being told in advance. The technical and dress rehearsals displayed are compulsory dates for all cast and crew.

Weekend/important rehearsal times:

Sunday 5 th February:	2-6pm	(cast in film to keep time/ date free)
Sunday 4 th March:	6-9pm	Rehearsal (cast to keep date/ time free)
Sunday 11 th March:	6-9pm	Act 1 dry run
Sunday 18 th March:	6-9pm	Act 2/ 3 run
Wednesday 21 st March:	6.30pm-10pm	Technical Rehearsal
Thursday March 22 nd :	6.30pm- 9.30pm	(Dress)
Sunday 25 th March:	6pm-9pm	(last rehearsal - full run)

The production promises to be a thought provoking and exciting piece of theatre. We hope very much that your families and friends will be able to attend one or more of the evenings. Tickets will be £5 per adult, and students have free admittance. Please contact box.office@ellesmere.com for tickets or phone Mr Lord on 01691 622231.

If for any reason you need to contact me, my e-mail is pippa.bell@ellesmere.com.

I look forward to welcoming you to the production in March.

Yours sincerely,



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