

More information for Cast and Parents – please read carefully (when in a benevolent mood).

The object of this letter is to outline ideas for next term **in order to do the very best for the cast**. But first, my deep rooted thanks for the hard work already evident – attendance, spirit and skill have all been first class in the casting process. Auditions are demanding and so am I!

A request for next term

To prove that I am demanding, please may the play become the priority after-school activity for members of the cast wherever possible? I do not mean for all other activities to be put aside (though this would be wise for principals) but that rehearsal takes precedence. **Obviously, I will not use every part everyday**, but availability means full attendance when it gets busy – and it will! – running scenes, costumes etc.. I will remain flexible, but that is when the commitment will kick in! Before the end of this term I will ask pupils to complete a form showing their availability.

Rehearsal

We will rehearse mainly on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, and possibly the odd Wednesday when matches allow or for very small groups. The idea is to rehearse for short periods with intensity and maximum involvement. I do not intend to use any Saturdays or the day before the second half of term. If we work hard there will be no need. However, as the play nears, I may instead extend the rehearsal to, say, 5.15pm or 5.30pm if I feel it necessary, so please be prepared for this.

A weekly rehearsal schedule will be posted in advance on the school website and on The Merchant of Venice notice board. Rehearsal is not an excuse for not doing homework. We fully understand, and will take into consideration, the pressure of entrance exams.

Costumes

If any of you are interested in helping with costumes I would love to hear from you. Please do email me or drop into my classroom when you're passing.

Dates to note (times tbc)

- Wednesday 6th January – ALL CAST for a warm up and run through of whole play – fast forward style! 4.15 – 5.00 pm
- Friday 12th March – Technical run through – all cast
- Monday 15th March – Dress Rehearsal
- Tuesday 16th March – First performance to school
- Thursday 18th & Friday 19th March – Second and third performances, 6:30pm
- Saturday 20th March – Collapse!

For communication please pass by my classroom, drop me a note, or e-mail me at rhancock@chandlings.org.uk.

King regards,

RICHARD HANCOCK