

Casterton College Rutland

Arts News

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Hannah Brown—Youth Musical Theatre School

Special points of interest:

- Hannah Brown: Youth Musical Theatre School
- Wild's Lodge Arts Festival
- Frankenstein Theatre Trip
- Primary Arts Day
- High School Musical
- Jessica stars in Elf the Musical
- The Importance of Being Earnest
- Music Performance Evening
- GCSE Art Workshops
- Matchmakers of Stamford generous donation

After collecting a flyer from the drama department in school, I went on a weeklong YMT summer course up in Yorkshire. I was a bit apprehensive at first but within minutes of meeting the rest of the group, I made really close friends that I'm still in touch with today. Not only does the course help you build relationships, but you also receive a grade six in Musical Theatre awarded by Trinity College London and if you are interested in making theatre your career then this is a good first step towards that aspiration. On top of all of that, you collaborate with really talented directors, cho-

reographers and vocal coaches. When I was there, we created a 45-minute performance incorporating all of the Shakespeare plays. Creating this piece really helped me explore not only my acting and singing skills but tested me on my dancing skills as well. So if you are a budding actor, a skilled singer or just want to try something new, then I would highly recommend this course for you. Mrs Ball currently has the flyers for these courses – see her if you are interested.

(Hannah Brown – Year 11 GCSE Drama student)



Wild's Lodge Arts Festival

The year started off with an early trip in September to the Wild's Lodge Festival in Empingham. This has now become an annual event for our Year 7 students who are interested in the arts. Music, art and dance activities were on offer, as well as motorbikes, fire engines and a whole range of other festival fare. The central attraction was the main stage, a proper festival style affair,

where our year 10 band of rock musicians played a set which did the school proud. Our year 7 students got the opportunity to be part of a festival crowd, and had a wonderful day.

(Sue Ball—Head of Expressive Arts)

Year 10 Theatre Trip to Frankenstein



Year 10 fed their love of gothic horror with a trip to The Stahl Theatre in Oundle in October. They are studying 'Frankenstein' as part of the brand new GCSE Drama specification, and analysed the various production elements of the play on their return. Black Eyed Theatre Company's productions are a favourite with the GCSE classes, as they combine superb storytelling with innovative use of theatrical devices, often producing work that is unique and fascinating. The highlight of the show was a representation of the monster through a larger than life puppet, manipulated by several actors. *(Sue Ball—Head of Expressive Arts)*

Year 10 & 11 After School Art Workshops



Every Thursday, the smell of hot chocolate drifts down the Kube gallery corridor, enticing students in to after school art sessions. This new session, with access to no less than four members of the art team: Miss Mistry, Mrs Mitchell, Mr Leaper and Miss Rothwell, has generated a lovely working atmosphere. Students go along for extra time and support on their GCSE art projects, and imaginative, creative work is being produced as a result.

(Dipti Mistry—Art Dept)



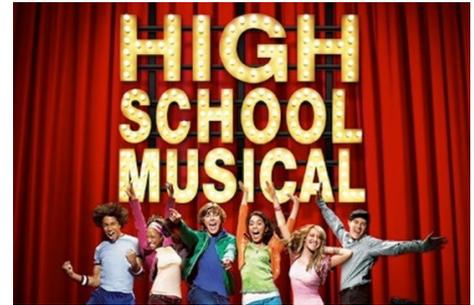
Year 11 Theatre Trip to 'The Importance of Being Earnest'

Year 11 GCSE Drama students visited the Curve Theatre in Leicester to watch a studio production of the Oscar Wilde classic 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. This was a contemporary take on the play, sporting a set which was completely covered in mirrors, using modern dance music as transitions, and giving the overall feel of a nightclub. The non-traditional take on the play gave rise to much heated debate on our return, with some students really rebelling against the director's vision. One student was heard to say "I couldn't believe what they did with the handbag moment – they just threw it away!" It's always exciting to see theatre that gives rise to strong opinions, and this was certainly the case with this trip! *(Sue Ball—Head of Expressive Arts)*



High School Musical

Rehearsals are well under way now for our production of High School Musical. Harrison Taylor and Abby Betts lead the cast in this very popular show. Tickets will go on sale before Christmas this year, as high demand is anticipated. **Evening performance dates are 2nd & 3rd Feb 2017.** Ticket prices are £5 and £6. Show starts at 7.00pm. Don't miss it! *(Sue Ball—Head of Expressive Arts)*



Music Performance Evening



On Thursday 15th December, we held our annual Music Performance Evening where all of the instrumentalists in the college perform, regardless of whether they have been playing for six weeks or six years! This informal event offered an opportunity for all of our instrumentalists and vocalists to perform in front of a supportive audience. *(Gina Form—Music Dept)*

Primary Arts Day

On Thursday 24th November, no less than 160 year 5 and 6 students joined us for our annual Primary Arts Day. Year 9 and 10 Art, Drama and Music students from Casterton College worked with the younger students to produce Christmas themed art pieces, choral and rockschool ensembles and drama work based on protecting the environment. Many of the primary staff commented on how professional and helpful our students were, and they truly did a magnificent job. An art exhibition, along with the music and drama pieces were shown to the parents at the end of the day, and a visit from the High Sherriff of Rutland, Sarah Furness topped off a hugely successful event. A huge thank you for all of our staff and students who worked so hard, but also to the primary staff and students who made the day such fun. *(Sue Ball—Head of Expressive Arts)*



Matchmakers of Stamford

Matchmakers of Stamford have generously donated a wonderful selection of fabrics, ribbons and netting, amongst other textiles products to our Art department. After asking if they had a few bits for our students they made a fantastic contribution from which the students are already benefiting in their mixed media art work.

Matchmakers have also given us a range of evening dresses to find homes for as they are closing their evening wear department. Rather than some of their dresses going to dress agencies, they have given them to us to sell on to students or staff at prices starting at approximately £10. A date will be released shortly. It is such a wonderful opportunity and we are extremely grateful to Matchmakers of Stamford. *(Lisa Mitchell—Art Dept)*



Elf the Musical

One of our Year 11 students, Jessica Auciello recently starred in Elf the Musical at the Stamford Corn Exchange. Based on the beloved holiday film, this hilarious fish-out-of-water comedy follows Buddy the Elf in his quest to find his true identity. Jessica is a member of the Wildcats Theatre School, and is also starring as Sharpay alongside Ewan Brookes as Ryan in our own musical theatre production of High School Musical in February.

**Check out the Arts News on our new website
at www.castertoncollegerutland.com**

Excellence in the Arts

Casterton College Rutland is well known for excellence in the arts but we want to ensure we celebrate the achievements of students in an out of college so if you have a child with us who has made a substantial achievement in the any of the arts we'd love to hear from you. We also welcome parent volunteers, so if you have a hidden talent you'd like to share—just let us know!

Sue Ball—Head of Expressive Arts

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