



September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Enrichment Trip to see *First Encounters with Shakespeare - King Lear* - Tuesday 4th November 2025

I have managed to book 45 tickets for what will be a really powerful opportunity to see some Shakespeare, live, designed especially for children: a production of what 'English teacher me' considers to be one of his best plays, *King Lear* at our lovely, local fabulous Mayflower Studios in Southampton. The opportunity to see live theatre aimed at young people doesn't come along all the time, so I was keen to snaffle us up tickets as quickly as I could!

The production is an 80-minute version of *King Lear* using an edited version of the original play to create the perfect introduction specially for young people aged 7-13. I promise you, whatever your current views of Shakespeare are (and believe me, I have had many in my time!) this will be 80 minutes of genuinely good stuff about family, power, losing control and learning from it all. I would love to have your child with me for a smashing afternoon out enjoying a great story, well told.

The story goes like this: the king announces that he's reached an age when he'd like to step back from all the hard work, and so he will divide his kingdom between his three daughters according to how much they love him. Already sounding problematic?

Lear thinks he will then be able to live out his old age with all the comforts of kingship, and none of the responsibility. But the eldest two daughters, Goneril & Regan, have other ideas in mind – and he has now given away all power to stop them. His vanity has devastating consequences for family, nation and climate.

This special *First Encounters with Shakespeare* production, makes Shakespeare's play about family, power and betrayal relevant for a new generation of theatregoers and is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, making it possible for the Royal Shakespeare Company to expand its tour to work in partnership with more places across England, such as down here with us.

The cost for the trip will be **£20**. We have booked a coach to take us to and from the Mayflower Studios in Southampton, which will be leaving school around 12:30pm and returning to school afterwards. Parents/carers will need to **ensure the collection** of their child from school at around **4pm**. **Unless we have direct consent from you before the trip, your child will not be able to walk home from school afterwards.** All students will need to have a packed lunch with them as they will not have access to the canteen before they leave for the trip.

If your child would like to attend, please log in to the Arbor app and provide your consent for your child to attend. If you are using a mobile phone to view the app, please turn your device to landscape and scroll to the bottom right of the page, select Trips and a new screen will show you the trip your child is being offered. Choose the trip and follow the details in order to provide consent. Online, via Arbor is our new method of payment and this has been set up for you to pay. The closing date is **Friday 3rd October at 4pm**. If your child is

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in receipt of Pupil Premium (or has been entitled to Free School Meals in the last 6 years), financial support may be available. In the first instance, please contact our Finance team at finance@noadswood.hants.sch.uk for further information.

If your child is currently entitled to free school meals, we can provide a packed lunch for this trip. Please click on this link to order your child's lunch: [Packed Lunch](#) The deadline for ordering is **Friday 3rd October at 4pm**. All packed lunches can be collected from the canteen on the morning of the trip.

We do reserve the right to not proceed with the trip if numbers are too low. In this instance, anyone who has already paid will be refunded in full. If this trip is oversubscribed, we will determine the places by a fair ballot and those who are unsuccessful will be refunded in full.

Please could you check that your child's medical conditions are all up to date on Arbor before they go on this trip. To add new medical conditions, please go to Arbor and click on your child's profile, scroll down to the Medical Section and click on the **+Add** in the top righthand corner. Once finished, please click the update button. If you need to update what we already have on file, click on your child's profile and scroll down to the Medical Section. Click on the existing condition to update. Any submissions for medical conditions will take a few days to appear on Arbor as they will be reviewed by the medical team.

We take seriously our responsibility for the safety and welfare of our students at all times. This raises particular issues when students are involved in an activity off-site. Before taking students away from the school site, we carry out a thorough risk assessment and take all necessary measures to minimize risks including arranging appropriate levels of supervision by responsible adults. We expect that students involved in the activity will cooperate fully with the arrangements made and follow closely the instructions of the responsible adults throughout the activity. We therefore reserve the right to refuse a place on the trip to any students where there has been a behaviour concern previously.

Yours sincerely

Kathryn Marshall
Headteacher, English teacher at heart and trip organiser