

13th October 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

Auditions are underway for our annual school production – this year we will be delighted to bring you 'The Addams Family'. Miss Simons has been overwhelmed by the number of students wanting to take part in the chorus or auditions for one of the leading roles. I am certain she will have some difficult decisions to make, but am proud of all students who put themselves forwards.

The Trust completed a review of our Literacy strategy on Wednesday. Mr Groom has developed this over the past year, and you can read more about it [on our website](#). Moving forwards, we will be putting a phonics scheme in place to support weaker readers at KS3, using teaching methods students will be familiar with from primary school.

We also spent some time looking at reading - this is key to students accessing the whole curriculum, not just English lessons. If students are able to read widely out of school, their performance in it will improve significantly. As parent of a 15 year old boy, I am well aware that reading for pleasure is not at the top of the priority list, and that wading through treacle may be easier than encouraging a love of sitting down with a book. However, we have persevered and found autobiographies a source of interest.

We're currently reading 'Can't Hurt Me' by David Goggins, a retired Navy SEAL. In it, he says that to be successful we "have to become addicted to hard work. Because passion and obsession, even talent, are only useful tools if you have the work ethic to back them up." Wide words indeed.

With best wishes for the weekend!

Mr Dan Bagshaw

Head of School