

14 September 2010

Dear Pupils and Parents

***Lysistrata* – New Theatre Royal – Thursday 7 October 2010**

The Classics and English Departments are organizing a party to see the Aristophanes comedy *Lysistrata* performed by the professional company *Actors of Dionysus* at the New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth on Thursday 7 October at 7.30 pm.

This is one of Aristophanes' most famous and often performed plays. The basic plot is typically outrageous. Athens has been engaged in a long and bitter war with Sparta. Finally, as the men are unable to negotiate peace, the women of both sides get together and organize a 'sex-strike', refusing to satisfy their husbands until peace terms have been concluded. The consequences of this are painful for all concerned! It is remarkable that this hilarious play could have been performed as part of a public festival at a time when Athens was actually engaged in a bitter war of attrition against Sparta.

Even by modern standards, this play is somewhat risqué, and the company have advised that is suitable for those of fourteen years or over. I hope however it will be a very enjoyable and educational evening giving an insight into the unique culture of Athens in the 5th Century BC. The play lasts approximately 80 minutes. The cost of seeing this production will be £7.

Pupils should be dropped off at the theatre itself by 7.20 at the latest and contact a member of staff. Pupils should be collected from the theatre at 9.00.p.m.

If you are interested in your daughter/son seeing this play, please complete the slip and attached consent form and return to me or Mr. Elphick-Smith as soon as possible and certainly **by Friday 24 September**.

Yours sincerely

Ben Lister
Head of Classics



To: Mr. B P Lister or Mr J J Elphick Smith, The Portsmouth Grammar School (**by Friday 24 September**)

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Name of pupil _____ Year:/ Tutor Group _____

I would like my daughter/son to attend the above production. Please add the amount of £7 to my school account.

Signature _____ Date _____
(Parent/Guardian)

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