

2 July 2010

Dear Parents

Come And Get Your Pound Of Flesh!

Following in the successful footsteps of *Hamlet* last year (performed in blissful, uninterrupted sunshine), PGS are once again performing this year's 6th Form Shakespeare, *The Merchant Of Venice*, at the atmospheric venue of Southsea Castle on **Thursday 8 & Friday 9 July at 7.30pm.**

Most people know the central, infamous conflict of *Merchant* – Shylock, a Jewish money lender, demands a 'pound of flesh' from a Christian merchant as recompense for the latter's broken bond, despite repeated requests for mercy – but there are other, gentler themes of romance, comedy and deception that make this one of Shakespeare's richest, most enjoyable plays.

It really is an experience watching a Shakespeare in this setting – last year's *Hamlet* was in many ways a unique experience, and I encourage you strongly to attend. This time, the action will be based solely in the intimate rear courtyard, and there will be refreshments before and halfway through the play. The 6th Form directors and cast have been working hard to deliver a pacy, engaging performance, so please do your best to come and support them, and encourage others to do so too.

Tickets are available from **School Reception**, costing **£5** for adults and **£2** for Under 18s. There is limited capacity so please book sooner rather than later. Obviously the weather will be glorious, but on the small off-chance that it isn't, I'd advise you to bring a coat or waterproof.

Look forward to seeing you there!

James Robinson
Director In Residence