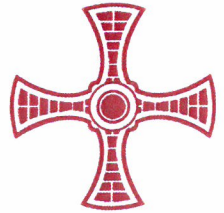


# St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College



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Head Teacher: Mr. D. Juric  
Chair of Governors: Mr. G. Moorhouse

March 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I write to inform you of an exciting opportunity for your child to attend a free live 'virtual theatre' experience of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. This is excellent timing as Year 9 are due to study this text in the coming weeks and this will help to inform their understanding.

A live read-through performance (with an accompanying question and answer session) will be held remotely from 4:30pm until 6pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, delivered by the theatre company *ReadThrough*.

The *ReadThrough* initiative is designed to help students, currently missing out on the chance to experience Shakespeare's plays live on stage, get a better grasp of the classics. *ReadThrough* is a live online workshop service and the company have recently been supported by Stephen Fry and Dame Emma Thompson for offering students the opportunity to engage in live theatre.

What's more, this experience is free for all students. The English Department are booked onto the *Romeo and Juliet* performance on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March and will receive a link to a private and secure YouTube channel that day. Staff will place this link onto their 'Team tab' for each Year 9 class meaning that every child will be able to connect live to the performance.

Teachers will promote the performance with students in lesson time and encourage attendance. The *ReadThrough* experience is excellent and the department's teachers will also log onto the performance in real time. Unfortunately, this cannot be recorded and so students must log on at the required time if they wish to be a part of this experience. Students will not be on camera or able to interact with the theatre team in any way – they will simply follow the link to watch the performance in a completely safe and secure manner.

*ReadThrough* have recently held a virtual performance of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and this was excellent. The play, like *Romeo and Juliet*, is abridged so that the performance lasts just over an hour with a question and answer session with the actors afterwards. This is interesting as the actors explore characterisation, key themes and Shakespeare's intent.

This is an excellent opportunity for your child and we advise all students to attend.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Brettell  
Head of English

