



Where Pupils Achieve and Excel
Headteacher: Mrs T Price BA (Hons) MA Ed

MC/JP

25 April 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

We have an exciting date for your diary – Tuesday 24th May 5pm -7.30 pm.

On this thrilling night, we invite you to join us in school for a spine-chilling Gothic Evening. Our wonderful Year 8 students will be performing snippets of their hair-raising gothic writing from their latest module. There will be spooky stories, devilish descriptions, spine-chilling Shakespeare, petrifying poetry and lots more. Expect to be amazed, wowed and maybe a little spooked! Think of an open-mic night but with an eerie twist! Please be aware that some of the content may be a little scary for younger ears.

Tickets can be purchased via parent pay at a cost of £2 and all of the funds will go directly back into our English Department. Children aged 16 and under are free but still will be allocated a ticket. Please state on ParentPay the number of adults/children attending. Our year 8 students have just one term left at James Bateman Middle School and, with the Covid restrictions finally being lifted, we want to provide them with this exciting opportunity to not only showcase their work but to also stand on a stage and demonstrate their face-to-face public speaking abilities; this is proven to improve communication skills, increase self-esteem and enhance leadership skills.

We would really value your support in encouraging your children to take part in this unique event and we would love you to get involved – here are a few ideas:

- Allocate a chunk of time where you listen to your child’s performance.
- Have a look at the checklist below and offer feedback.

Speaker makes clear eye contact with the audience. (not relying too heavily on notes)
Speaker varies their voice for different parts of the presentation. (emphasises certain words, alters volume, voice is clear and engaging, uses expression confidently, uses correct inflection and tone to grab audience attention)
Speakers body language is confident. (good posture, hand gestures, moving around and commanding the space)
Speaker has a control and understanding of the gothic genre. (are they convincing in their delivery or in their role?)
Any other advice that you could offer?

- Allow your child to record themselves performing their presentation and watch it back together.
- Ensure they are practising independently at home.

We are so excited to share this special night with you. Please buy your tickets now to avoid disappointment.

Yours sincerely

The English Department