

*Newton Public Schools*

*Newton North High School*

*457 Walnut Street Newton, Massachusetts 02460*

January 26, 2018

Dear Prospective Student and Family:

**Thank you for your interest in Newton North's Theatre Trip to London.**

The program is open to all Fine and Performing Arts Students (any and all students who have taken an FPA class are eligible to apply). The tentative program dates are June 22-30, 2018, after final exams and before most summer camps begin.

Before filling out an application, please read carefully the information included in this cover letter, consider the nature and expectations of the trip, and, as a family, think about your or your child's suitability for the experience. Please note that there is a section of the application that needs to be completed by a parent or guardian.

This program is specific in its goals and expectations. It has been designed to provide enthusiastic NNHS FPA students with the opportunity to gain a real-world view into the myriad facets of the world of theatre, beyond just the US theatre scene. Students will explore and participate in the theatrical stage world of London, a city known for its flourishing theatrical innovation since the days of Shakespeare, Spenser, and Marlow. Like the theatre programs to Boston and NY, this program is designed to expand students' horizons and hone students' engagement with their craft.

The tentative program of activities will include visits to the UK's National Theatre, London's West End, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, as well as the costume collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Gallery of English Costume, and the Fashion and Textile Museum. The program also hopes to arrange several master classes through the UK National Theatre for actors, student directors, stage managers, and student designers.

There will also be opportunities to visit historic sites around London to gain a sense of the broader historical context.

**Cost:** We estimate that the student/family share of the expenses of this program will be approximately \$2700 (the final cost will vary depending on the number of students and airline prices). The cost for the trip comprises airfare, lodging, meals, museum entrances, in-city transportation, and entrances to performances and master class fees.

### **Financial Assistance:**

Need-based scholarships are available to all students through the Jennifer Price Global Education Leadership Fund (GELF). The GELF application can be found in the World Language Office at Newton North or on the GELF website at <http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/2022>. Note that although both application deadlines listed on the website have passed, there will be a new application deadline forthcoming for our trip.

GELF scholarships vary in size depending on family income and support families making up to \$100,00 per year (or more if extenuating circumstances are present).

**Click on link below for the application**

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/2941>

**Applications are due by Friday, February 27, 2018**

Questions? Email Ruth Talvacchia, Costume Design Teacher and Lead London Program Coordinator at: [ruth\\_talvacchia@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:ruth_talvacchia@newton.k12.ma.us)

**Tentative Travel Dates:**

**June 22-30, 2017**

**(Subject to slight change due to the finalized  
last day of NPS school calendar)**

### **Application Requirements:**

The screening committee will be seeking student applicants who can adapt themselves readily to new or unusual situations and who can travel well with a group. Applicants must be able to act responsibly in a foreign country; follow chaperone directives and school policies; have a strong interest in all aspects of theatre, onstage and backstage; and at all times be a good representative and ambassador for our school, town, state and country.

Participation in the program requires good academic standing and an exemplary disciplinary record. A student initially accepted into the program will be subject to disqualification from travelling if, subsequently, any of the following requirements are not met:

- Student must have taken a Fine and Performing Arts class or be involved in Theatre Ink (or other FPA programs);
- Grades of C or below, N's, or Incompletes may mean that students' participation in the program is subject to review;
- Disciplinary infractions will be considered grounds for possible disqualification from the trip:
  - Once a student has been accepted into the program and has paid part or the entire fee, a refund may not be possible if the student is disqualified from participation due to failure to meet the academic or disciplinary standards outlined above.
  - Full refunds may also not be possible if upfront expenses have already been paid regardless of the reason for withdrawal.
  - Requirements once accepted: Logistical & Academic Students who commit to participate in the program are also committing to attend a number of preparatory X-Block meetings.
  - In these meetings, the trip coordinators will disseminate important travel

information, reminders, travel procedures, answer questions, and will develop an academic framework for understanding the London theatre scene.

Requirements after having returned to school: students who commit to attend the trip commit as well to some sort of post-trip activity by which they will share what they saw, felt, and learned with students who did not attend the program. The precise nature of this post-trip activity is to be determined, but may take the form of a video diary or other performance-based sharing of learning.

### **Selection Process**

1. The trip coordinator will conduct an initial screening of the applications to ensure that applicants meet the minimum criteria outlined above for participation in the exchange. Applicants who fail to meet these criteria will receive no further consideration.
2. A Selection Committee comprised of Theatre Ink personnel and other FPA faculty/administrators will review and evaluate the applications of all qualified applicants. The review of each application will consider, among other matters, the thoroughness of the application and the timeliness of its completion, the quality of the personal statement, the quality of each student's recommendations, commitment to positive group dynamics, interest in and enthusiasm for theatre, and positive/flexible attitude. On the basis of this review, and taking into account the number of spaces available, the committee will select final candidates.
3. All applicants will be informed of the Selection Committee's final decisions by mid-March 2018.
4. Travel Documents:

Students and their families are responsible for securing valid and current passports. Students who are not American citizens will need to check with the appropriate consulate as to visa requirements and inform the chaperones if they holding a green card.

## **Application Instructions and Documents**

The on-line application for the London Theatre Trip  
can be found by going to:

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/2941>

**Completed applications must be received by Friday, February 27, 2018. All  
references will be kept confidential.**