Carrington School AD ASTRA

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16 November 2026

Dear parents and carers

During this half term, there are some topics being covered as part of your young person's curriculum that we want to make you aware of.

Information About 8s Current English Text - Blood Brothers

This term Year 8 are studying **Blood Brothers by Willy Russell**. We have added this play to our curriculum because it develops many of the skills and contextual understanding that students will need later at GCSE when studying An Inspector Calls. Blood Brothers is a well-established part of the English curriculum in the UK and is studied in many schools at both Key Stage 3 and GCSE.

The play explores themes of class, society, regional dialect and poverty, encouraging students to consider how people's upbringings can shape their future opportunities.

We would like to make parents and carers aware that **there are four occasions in the script where swearing is used** (specifically, the F-word). These are significant moments in the development of characters and have been included by the playwright to reflect how the characters' experiences and backgrounds influence the way they communicate. We believe it is important to study the text as the writer intended.

In lessons, any discussion and analysis of this language will focus on its purpose and effect within the play. Students will be reminded that standards of appropriate language and communication remain unchanged in all other aspects of school life.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch at NKay@carringtonschool.org.

Performance of Masking to 8s, Tuesday 24 November, Period 5 & 6

We are delighted to welcome **Peer Productions** to school on Tuesday 24 November, when they will **perform their brand-new play Masking** during Periods 5 and 6 in school, **exploring issues surrounding young people's mental health and wellbeing**.

This supports both the Drama curriculum by exploring how theatre can communicate social messages to an audience, and our Personal Development curriculum by encouraging students to reflect on mental health, identity and wellbeing, helping them develop empathy, resilience and confidence in discussing important contemporary issues.

The play asks the audience to consider how they might know when strong feelings, which are common in adolescence, become something that needs intervention. It invites the audience to develop their empathy skills by stepping inside the different characters' heads, discovering what they are masking and what's happening beneath the surface. By doing this they aim to destigmatise mental health and mental illness and bring those conversations to the surface.

We hope this performance provides an engaging opportunity for students to reflect on important themes and sparks meaningful conversations beyond the classroom.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch at MJoyce@carringtonschool.org.

Best wishes,
The Carrington Team

Content and Sensory Warnings for the Play, Masking:

