

20<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Whole School Musical – School of Rock

We are excited to announce that in November 2021, Ely College will be presenting its first whole-school musical. The chosen musical is Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'School of Rock' (school's edition).

### What is the production about? (Synopsis)

This musical follows Dewey Finn, a failed, wannabe rock star who decides to earn an extra bit of cash by posing as a supply teacher at a prestigious prep school. There he turns a class of straight-A pupils into a guitar-shredding, bass-slapping, mind-blowing rock band! But can he get them to the Battle of the Bands without their parents and the school's headmistress finding out?

We would strongly recommend that students take the opportunity to watch the fantastic film version involving Jack Black, and further information on the school's edition of this show can be found at the following website:

<https://uk.schoolofrockthemusical.com/>

### What are the roles?

Students who are currently in Yrs 7 to 10 (during the 2020-2021 academic year) are invited to audition for the following roles:

#### Major principals

- Male: Dewey Finn; Ned Schneebly
- Female: Rosalie Mullins; Patty

#### Minor principals

- Male: Zack, Freddie, Billy
- Female: Summer, Tomika

There are further minor principal roles available within this musical in addition to those listed above.

#### Chorus

- Students will be involved in all chorus numbers, and as additional actors in scenes within the show.
- If you do not wish to audition for a major/minor principal role, please select 'Chorus' as your preferred role on the booking audition link.

### What will students need to do in order to prepare for the audition?

If you are applying to audition for a major/minor principal, you will need to learn to sing the following extract of music:

- Male principal: When I Climb To The Top Of Mt. Rock
- Female principal: Where Did The Rock Go?

If you are applying to audition for a chorus role, you will need to learn to sing the following extract of music:

- Chorus: 'Stick It To The Man'

All instructions and resources (backing tracks, YouTube links, support document) are provided in the following OneDrive folder:

[https://cmat-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/jnewsome\\_elycollege\\_co\\_uk/Esimc\\_4Hmv5OpewsYDN5oV8BbLS5whNUbhZxFlypi-t5Xwg?e=SwvOc1](https://cmat-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/jnewsome_elycollege_co_uk/Esimc_4Hmv5OpewsYDN5oV8BbLS5whNUbhZxFlypi-t5Xwg?e=SwvOc1) Only students will be able to access the resources in this folder.

### **Auditions – first round (and what it involves)**

- Auditions will be taking place between Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May between 13:40-16:00
- Each year group will audition separately, in line with the school COVID bubble restrictions
- All students who audition from a year group will be present throughout the whole audition process, which will take place during period 5 and form time
- If a student catches a school bus home, we will ensure that their audition has taken place early in the session to ensure that their normal transport provision takes place
- If a student does not catch a school bus home, we kindly ask that your child is available on the school site until 16:00.

### **During the audition, you will be asked to:**

- Undertake some vocal warm-ups and range tests (to see how high/low you can sing)
- Perform your pre-prepared musical performance (individually if going for a principal role, or with other students if going for a chorus role)
- Engage in a drama workshop.

### **Auditions – call back**

- Following the first round of auditions, a number of students will be involved for major/minor principal call-backs which will take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May between 13:40-16:00
- The list of students invited for these call-backs will be circulated on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May via email and Teams, and we will use communication systems within school on Friday to ensure that all of the selected students are aware that they have been selected for a call-back
- If you have not been selected for a call back, this does not necessarily mean that you have not been successful in your audition
- The call back provides a further opportunity for certain students to show their full potential if this was not seen in the first rehearsal, and to ensure that certain pairing of major principals will work.

The full cast list will then be available on a noticeboard in the Music department, on a noticeboard outside of the LRC for Yr 9 and in each House office, from 08:00 on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

### **How do the students sign up for the auditions and what is the deadline?**

In order to sign up for an audition, students will need to complete the following Microsoft Forms document: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ks9wkHb2Ik2gS32OfbtLw3nPm40MnIFnfiPIEurXO1UNEdZRjBZSFo2REIZNEdKM1g0WjILQkxWS4u> Please read the form carefully, and answer all questions accurately. All students must sign up for their auditions by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April through the above Microsoft Forms link, in order for the final audition schedule to be created and details shared with students.

Please note when students sign up for their audition via the Microsoft Forms document, they will be asked to confirm that:

1. They are able to attend all rehearsals and performances outlined in this letter, and
2. They may be offered a different role in the school show to the one they were hoping to secure.

All students are expected to have strong attendance, behaviour and make strong progress at Ely College. The school has the right to reconsider a student's involvement in the musical if these standards are not upheld.

### **Final key information**

A detailed rehearsal schedule for the show will be confirmed once casting has taken place and circulated to students and parents/carers, it is likely to involve the following:

- Major/minor principals – individual/small group rehearsals will start in June 2021
- From September 2021, there will be two Session 6 rehearsals each week taking place between 15:00-17:30 each week. Chorus will be invited to join at this stage
- There will be a weekend technical rehearsal on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November, between 09:00-17:00 each day.

Principal: Simon Warburton



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**The performance dates are:**

- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November (afternoon performance to local primary schools)
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November (evening performance)
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (evening performance)

We fully appreciate that the audition process might seem to be a scary prospect, but we strongly encourage every one of you to apply and audition if you would like to be involved on the stage in this show.

We are incredibly excited about having the opportunity to run a whole-school musical, and to involve as many students as possible in this opportunity. Further opportunities to be involved in the pit band, sound/lighting, backstage, hair and make-up (and many, many more) will follow soon.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Mr Newsome [jnewsome@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:jnewsome@elycollege.co.uk) or Ms Seymour [cseymour@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:cseymour@elycollege.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

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