

13 October 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

RGS Musical – *In the Heights*

The RGS Music Department is delighted to announce plans for the 2021 Senior Musical *In The Heights*. After the hugely successful 2019 RGS stage production of *West Side Story*, we return to New York City and explore a three-day drama in Washington Heights, a largely Latino neighborhood, focusing on the themes of hope, family and identity. Often seen as Lin-Manuel Miranda's precursor to the world-famous *Hamilton*, *In The Heights* was nominated for 13 Tony awards and our 2021 production is particularly exciting as it is released in the same year as the musical's worldwide film adaptation.

After months of forming a comprehensive risk assessment, in accordance with the DfE Guidance for Schools and DCMS Guidance for Performing Arts, we are announcing first-round auditions to take place on **Friday 23 October in the Queen's Hall**. RGS students are welcome to attend our Musical Theatre Workshop from 12-1pm and then complete a short audition in a slot between 1 and 3pm. Whilst the vast majority of the cast are in Years 9-13, any particularly enthusiastic or experienced Year 7 or 8 students may also audition. Whether you have performed in numerous productions, or if this is indeed your first show, I would strongly recommend coming along and seeing what the show is all about. You do not need to have previously performed in an RGS concert. Girls from local schools are invited to audition later in the day between 4 and 8pm, so do please spread the word with students who may be interested. Further details regarding parts and the audition process are included - hopefuls should bring along a song they can sing, of any kind, type or style. The featured dancer audition is also open to all boys later in the day. There is no need to sign up ahead of time – just turn up at **12 noon** on the day.

We are delighted to bring back Becky Harrison, a professional director and choreographer, who also directed *West Side Story* and is heavily involved in the local Trinity Theatre Arts school. There will be much more detailed guidance for all selected performers (whether in the principal cast or ensemble). Even in uncertain COVID-19 times with evolving government guidance, we are provisionally aiming to start socially-distanced rehearsals in November, with the view to a final performance run in the last week of March 2021.

If you have any questions regarding auditions, please encourage your son to speak to me in the Music Office, or indeed email me at fxm@rgshw.com. We hope to see your son there!

Best wishes,

Francis Mullaly
Director of Music