

27<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



**RE: 'We're all in this together' – Disney's smash hit musical phenomenon High School Musical Jr. Production 2022, featuring the students of Broadstone Middle School.**

Following the success of the previous whole school production of Mary Poppins, we are excited to announce that we will be putting on another extravaganza in 2022. This year's production will be Disney's famous 'High School Musical Jr.' and will be open to all children in KS2 and KS3.

*Disney's High School Musical Jr.* is a great way to involve array of pupils within the school such as: singers, dancers, actors, student-athletes and behind the scenes members. The show's large cast size can easily be expanded to accommodate pupils of all abilities, and it's modern-day school setting, scenery and costumes are easily accessible.

Disney Channel's smash it movie musical will come to life on Canford School's Layard Theatre stage, where Troy, Gabriella and the students of East High must deal with issues of love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extra-curricular activities. The show's infectious, danceable songs are sure to engage performers and audiences alike.

#### Show Time

The production will be staged towards the end of the Spring Term and will be shown over **three nights** at Canford Schools Layard Theatre. Please note that all children involved will be expected to be present for all evening performances. More details will follow regarding rehearsals, tickets and costumes.

#### Performance dates:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Provisional date dress rehearsal | Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 @ 7pm - Premier show        |
| Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 @ 7pm - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Show      | Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 @ 7pm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Show |

#### Auditions

All children who wish to be involved, will be expected to attend an audition and commit to rehearsals. Our rehearsals are incredibly important and we require dedicated learners in order to put on a grand performance! There are a number of solo parts in the production this year and we will be running auditions for these on:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>KS3 – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 3:15 – 4:30 pm</b> | <b>KS2 – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 3:15 – 4:30 pm</b> |
|--|---|

**\*Please note that this audition will be for main roles, speaking and singing parts only, such as:**

Troy, Gabriella, Sharpay and Ryan, Chad, Kelsi, Taylor McKessie, Zeke Baylor, Jason Cross, Martha Cox, Tiara Gold Jimmie Zara, Donny Dion, Susan, Alan, Cyndra, Jack Bolton, Ms. Darbus



The remainder casting will be scheduled through the month of October 2021.

### Rehearsals

As you can imagine there is a lot of preparation and rehearsal time which goes into putting on a school production therefore rehearsals will start on:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>               | <b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October</b>                            |
| <b>for main roles/ speaking &amp; singing parts</b> | <b>for the remainder of the cast including dancers and choir.</b> |

Further information and rehearsal schedules will be sent out once the cast has been selected.

### Volunteers

We have a dedicated team of staff that are volunteering to help with the show, but we would love it if you could get in touch with us if you would be able to support the show in any way. We are always looking for extra hands to help with set design, costumes, makeup, drama or even singing. If you are available to help us with the production in anyway at all then please do let the school office know.

The school productions over the past ten years have been very exciting for all involved and we are really looking forward to getting going on this year's show. We are expecting for a really good up take and can't wait to see our seasoned actors and actresses back again, as well as welcoming lots of new faces to the cast.

**If your child would like to take part then please can you confirm their attendance and commitment to the production and weekly rehearsals by completing the audition form via the attached link and submit no later than the Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.**

<https://forms.office.com/r/xfJxwRvmbx>

**\*If your child would like to audition for one of the main characters listed above, then they will need to prepare a song from one of the below choices and rehears the lines on the attached scripts.** (Most children will sing with others during the audition, however solo parts will need to be able to sing on their own)

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Get your head in the Game:<br><a href="https://bit.ly/BMSHeadGame">https://bit.ly/BMSHeadGame</a> | Bop to the Top:<br><a href="https://bit.ly/BMSBopTop">https://bit.ly/BMSBopTop</a> | Breaking Free:<br><a href="https://bit.ly/BMSBreakFree">https://bit.ly/BMSBreakFree</a> |
|---|--|---|

There are 5 scripts attached to this email to choose from.

**\*If you are auditioning for a main role / speaking or signing part, please chose **one** song and **one** script from the provided material to practice and prepare for the audition. Only one of each elements are needed even if you are auditioning or would like to be considered for more the one role.**

With the help of your very talented children we are looking forward to producing another blockbuster this year!

Many thanks



Mrs D Curtis  
Performing Arts Teacher

## **High School Musical, Jr. Character Breakdown list.**

### **Troy Bolton**

Troy Bolton, the most popular kid at East High, is the star of the basketball team who yearns to be more than what people want him to be. Troy discovers he loves to sing, but is afraid to admit it to his friends. Look for a solid young actor who can convey the full range of emotions and character traits Troy Bolton embodies: athletic, independent, sometimes shy, smitten with Gabriella, a true leader. Troy should be your strongest male singer and able to sing from his heart in a naïve yet convincing manner. He should also be able to move like a natural athlete while dancing and singing.

### **Jack Scott**

Jack Scott is the nerdy school announcer who trips over his own feet. Think about casting a student who will make this role his own and can portray a "gift of gab" radio voice. Jack can be quirky in all aspects: looks, dress and comportment. Most importantly, look for a character actor with superior diction and good comic timing.

### **Chad Danforth**

Chad Danforth is a hot-wired jock, second in command to Troy. He is focused on winning his school's basketball championship, but is slowly understanding that there might be more to this world, including his sparring crush on Taylor. Look for an actor that partners naturally with Troy, is a leader in his own accord, and can handle Chad's couple of solos and large number of acting scenes.

### **Ryan Evans**

Ryan Evans is Sharpay's fraternal twin and a star in the making. This character loves singing, dancing and lots of attention. He follows Sharpay's orders, but wants to break free from her shadow. Choose a "triple threat" for this actor: strong singer, dancer and actor. Everything Ryan does is calculated and executed impeccably. It will probably be helpful to audition Ryan and Sharpay in pairs as the success of "Bop to the Top" depends on the duo.

### **Zeke Baylor**

Zeke Baylor is a basketball player on the Wildcats Team. He has two secrets: a crush on Sharpay and a love for baking! Zeke and Chad are the most prominent of Troy's friends, so look for an actor that can work with them while being able to stand out in his own spotlight, especially when he reveals his secrets! Zeke has solos, so make sure your actor can sing as well as act.

### **Coach Bolton**

Coach Bolton is the stern basketball coach and Troy's dad. He lost the big game years ago and wants a second chance through his son. Cast a student that can handle the demands of acting older than almost everyone else in the show. Coach Bolton is primarily an acting role, so focus on finding a student who can convincingly spar with Ms. Darbus.

### **Gabriella Montez**

Gabriella Montez is the new girl in school. Gabriella is intelligent, pretty ("girl next door" type) and shy. She possesses a fantastic voice when she sings with Troy. Look for a girl that can take positive risks with both her acting and singing. She must be able to portray her intelligence and independence and then easily switch over to her shy and vulnerable side. Cast an actress with a strong sense of pitch and the ability to hold her own with a partner in order to make the most of this role. Make sure a portion of your audition is seeing your potential Troys and Gabriellas as a pair.

### **Taylor McKessie**

Taylor McKessie, the head Brainiac of the school, is the president of the Science Club. She wants Gabriella to join the Science Decathlon team so they can finally win the competition. Taylor has a hidden soft spot for Chad, which might be why she is always making fun of him. Cast a girl that can portray Taylor's assertiveness as well as sing a solid solo.

### **Sharpay Evans**

Sharpay Evans is the egocentric star of the school musicals. She is Ryan's older twin (and the alpha dog of the two) and has a mad crush on Troy. Sharpay has never met a mirror she didn't like. Look for someone who

can portray a diva and has solid acting chops and strong singing and dancing skills. Sharpay knows how to work a crowd. She is in a good number of scenes, so cast an actress that can handle this sizable role.

### **Martha Cox**

Martha Cox is a proud member of the Science Club and is brainy with a secret love of dancing. She has a fun-loving sidekick personality and becomes an adoring devotee of Gabriella. Cast an actor who is kind and funny. The role has important featured solos but the voice quality is not as important as the character. If you have a student that can show off some crazy break dancing moves, bravo! Brava!

### **Kelsi Nielsen**

Kelsi Nielsen is a thespian rehearsal pianist and student composer extraordinaire. Underneath her shy demeanor, Kelsi has no tolerance for people (read: Sharpay) who use their talent only to be number one. Cast an actor who can play the underdog but has the intelligence and ability to shoot the "zingers" at Sharpay with timing and accuracy. She must be coached to look like a pianist as she continually accompanies onstage. Kelsi has a small solo in "We're All in This Together," but it is secondary to her acting importance. The "group hug" with Troy and Gabriella has unbeatable charm if you cast a student who is smaller than the other two.

### **Ms. Darbus**

Ms. Darbus is the eccentric drama teacher. She is an amusing blend of Gertrude Stein and Ethel Merman. Passionate and disciplined, she is always trying to expose students to the enrichment and fun of theatre. Cast an actress who knows how to milk every word, phrase and gesture for this role. She must make her eccentricities appear second nature. Ms. Darbus's acting skills and timing should be topnotch; her singing voice is secondary as she has no solos. Ms. Darbus exudes wacky, yet it doesn't detract from her true love of theatre and her students.

### **Ensemble**

The Ensemble makes up all the other characters who populate East High School: Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians, Skater Dudes, Cheerleaders, Ms. Tenny, Science Decathlon Moderator, etc., with a few featured solo parts further described below. The ensemble is present throughout the show and provides the vocal power for the group numbers. These roles vary in size and in vocal, acting and dance requirements, so you can cast performers with a wide range of abilities. The ensemble participates in several self-contained numbers, which provide great opportunities to use groups of students that can rehearse together. (For example, the sixth-grade chorus in one number, the seventh-grade classes in another, etc.) Don't be afraid to mix your age groups here. Look for students whose enthusiasm and ability to take direction can allow your ensemble to look like a perfect representation of your school and community.

### **Ripper**

Ripper is a cool skater dude who is, lo and behold, a cello player! Cast a student who can sell this fun "double personality" with one short but sweet air cello solo!

### **James**

In the big Audition scene, James is the auditionee who sings so badly-off key it would scare anyone! Cast a person who can confidently sound bad& this can be a challenge for a good musician.

### **Susan**

Susan is the "pop star wanna be" audition candidate. Cast someone who is not afraid to go over the-top with this short yet humorous part.

### **Cathy**

Cathy is the auditionee who can belt like Ethel Merman! Cast a student that can fill the auditorium with her voice. It doesn't need to be pretty!

### **Cyndra**

Cyndra is the final auditionee and she sounds like an opera audition for the Met. If you have a young singer that can imitate an obnoxious vibrato in a serious manner, there's your perfect choice!