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11 January 2018

To Parents and Guardians

## **WIND ROAD BOYS PROJECT AT PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

During the next few weeks Primary schools in Spennymoor are working together on a drama activity, The Wind Road Boys

### **What does this mean for children?**

Over the coming weeks 1215 school children, from Key Stage 2 (years 3 -6) in 11 Spennymoor primary schools, will have the opportunity to work with professional cast and creatives from Enter CIC and participate in specially devised arts and heritage workshops. The first workshops are for ½ day in-schools and will introduce children to our mining heritage, history, culture and what life was like for children and families. This will be done through a series of activities designed with children in mind. We hope that the activities, a first step in “performing arts” for some, will increase self-confidence, encourage social interaction and be fun as well as educational. All Head Teachers are hugely supportive. They believe children will love and benefit from the activities of performing arts, culture, history and heritage of Spennymoor. By holding all workshops in school time we ensure maximum inclusion of children regardless of parent’s availability, wealth or support, and minimise additional school working.

Following the ½ day school workshops up to 110 school children in total, from across all of the schools, with the desire and aptitude shown will have the opportunity to complete 6 rehearsals of 2 hours scheduled at Whitworth Park School, in school time, and then with agreement go on to perform alongside the professional cast in The Wind Road Boys musical. The Enter CIC staff will be responsible for selecting the children from each school.

All children participating in The Wind Road Boys' School Workshops will be awarded certificates. In addition, those children participating in the professional performance of The Wind Road Boys will have the opportunity of gaining a nationally-recognised Arts Award qualification.

The Wind Road Boys performances will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Spennymoor Town Hall.

**How did this project start?**

During their research, Judith and Ian Machin (Mayor) came across a production called The Wind Road Boys; a musical with book, music and lyrics by local writer Paul Flynn. The musical follows the life of George Turner, the last miner from a long-forgotten community and his fight to save the town that he loved from destruction and exploitation. This story of pride, love, loss, values, families, battling against the odds and finding the strength to do what's right has a foundation of acutely-researched, factual mining history and uses real miners' stories to push the events along at a whiplash-inducing pace. Some of the initial research was conducted at the Durham Mining Museum in Spennymoor. However, it is not simply a "story about mining"; it is about the human ecstasy and tragedy that unites all people, families and has a truly universal message of love, respect and pride in our own and our collective past, present and future. The Wind Road Boys is produced by Enter CIC, a theatre company based in Ferryhill. The Wind Road Boys has been performed at Sunderland Empire, Edinburgh Fringe, The Sage, Gala Theatre Durham.

Yours sincerely



**COUNCILLOR IAN MACHIN**  
Town Mayor