



25 June 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 9 and 10 - Visit by Bali Rai Tuesday 6 July

We are excited to announce that we have been lucky enough to secure a visit by Bali Rai, the well-regarded children's author who has published a number of successful books for teenagers. He will be visiting the school on Tuesday 6 July to talk about his writing.

This is what the Book Trust says about him:

Bali Rai was born in 1971 and raised as a working class Punjabi in Leicester. He grew up in a deprived area of Leicester, a city which is almost unique in terms of cultural mix and his style of writing is firmly grounded in the reality that he has seen around him since he was a child. Bali Rai has been writing short stories and poetry since the age of eight. As a child he made up wild and exciting stories and his imagination has been vivid ever since. At school he excelled at English language and told his teachers that he would one day be a writer. He left school with eight GCSEs and English was always his favourite subject. After school he did three a-levels at a local sixth form - none of which was English Literature, which he now regrets. He went on to graduate from Southbank University in London with a 2:1 in politics and since then he has had various jobs in retail, cinema, and telesales and has kept a keen, almost obsessive, interest in current affairs.

Bali will be talking to English groups in years 9 and 10 throughout the day about his engaging and thoughtful teen fiction. Our aim is to introduce his work to students as part of our strategy to highlight the importance and pleasure of reading independently.

We strongly promote and encourage enrichment opportunities for all of our students, and it is hoped that you as parents will also recognise the value and importance of these events and give your full support. We subsidise the cost of events as much as possible with our own funds to ensure that these opportunities are accessible and affordable to all. However, we do not have the financial resources to cover the costs in full. Therefore, we are requesting a voluntary contribution of £2 from you to assist us in covering these costs. We would be grateful if this could be paid on ParentPay by **Friday 2 July 2021**. Without these contributions, the event may not be able to go ahead.

You can make your payment via Parent Pay on the following link <https://www.parentpay.com/>

Thank you in anticipation of your support with this exciting event.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Escott-New

Assistant Head teacher/ Standards Leader English

