



15 September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 9 and 10 - Visit by Bali Rai Tuesday 21 September

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 21 September to talk about his writing. This is to replace the visit which had to be postponed in July.

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 do have to pay a fee and we would like to ask for your help with a voluntary contribution of £2 from each student. The deadline for payment is **Monday 20 September**. If you made your voluntary contribution in July, you do not need to pay again.

You can make your payment via Parent Pay on the following link: <https://www.parentpay.com/>. We may be able to provide financial assistance for those students who are registered for pupil premium funding. Please contact the school office if you wish to apply for this for your son/daughter.

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

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Escott-New

Assistant Head teacher/ Standards Leader English

