

24 May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you as I know there have been some concerns raised on social media about the use of a play in a recent year 8 lesson. In this letter, I hope to explain the use of the play and address some of your concerns.

The play students in year 8 have been studying is called 'Too Much Punch for Judy' by Mark Wheeler. He is a well-known 'theatre in education' playwright and writes lots of plays for use in schools. You will see this if you Google the play (<http://www.londondrama.org/products/the-story-behind-too-much-punch-for-judy-members/27662>)

The extract that people have shared on social media, when taught appropriately, is used to show that the behaviour of the characters is wrong and risky. In the play, Jo and Judy, are understood as potentially vulnerable and 'Bob' and 'Nob's behaviour is criticised. As the play is about the dangers of drink driving, this extract builds the tension around the two female characters.

The extract seen out of context may appear offensive but this is part of a lesson and the meaning is taught to the students. The style of theatre is a form of documentary drama which is based on the spoken words of real people. The extract is intended to be performed in an over-the-top way in order to criticise the characters. These are challenging concepts and I will be looking further into how the teaching structures this learning, as it is an ambitious expectation for year 8.

You will be aware that most plays, novels, TV and media, poetry and art do tackle challenging issues and that in schools these are used to promote learning about big issues. Of course, it also demands careful teaching by experts.

Should you want to discuss any concerns about the curriculum, please contact the school via Jodie Turner on [stturnerj@caludoncastle.co.uk](mailto:stturnerj@caludoncastle.co.uk), outlining the concern and leaving your contact details. We will do our best to call you back within 48 hours.

Finally, I'd also request that your concerns or questions are raised with the school in the first instance, rather than posting them on social media. We are always pleased to work in partnership with families to best educate our students, and this can't be achieved if the school are not informed.

Kind regards



Ms S Kenrick  
Headteacher

**Axholme Road, Wyken, Coventry CV2 5BD**

**T:** 02476 444 822 | **E:** [enquiries@caludoncastle.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@caludoncastle.co.uk) | **W:** [www.caludoncastle.co.uk](http://www.caludoncastle.co.uk)

**Registered office:** Castle Phoenix Trust, Axholme Road, Wyken, Coventry CV2 5BD | Registered Number 8331385



Headteacher  
**Ms S Kenrick**

*Part of the Castle Phoenix Trust*  
*Leading learning and excelling together*  
[www.castlephoenixtrust.org.uk](http://www.castlephoenixtrust.org.uk)

