



Senior Drama Production: *Fiddler on the Roof*

The Athlone Hall had been the venue for many memorable performances over the past 40 years and the final production before its £1.8m refurbishment was *Fiddler on the Roof*. The production involved over 70 students and met with wholehearted and vociferous approval from the house on all three nights. Rupert Elmes' remarkable performance as Tevye came close to stealing the show but other excellent performance, fine ensemble playing, exciting Jewish and Russian Dance routines and a wonderful stage set ensured that it was a triumph for all involved.

An enthusiastic young cast worked very hard on the **junior production** of *The Roses of Eym*, a play by Don Taylor. Set in 1665, the

plot focused upon the sacrifice made by the Derbyshire villagers of Eym, who agreed to isolate themselves within the boundaries of their parish to prevent the spread of the plague to neighbouring communities.

Rehearsal space was at something of a premium for a large cast with the Athlone Hall out of action all term but under the direction of Mrs Dorothy Englert and Mr Stephen Waters, there were some very strong moments of ensemble performance and the principal characters were delivered with maturity and confidence by Andrezej Stuart-Thompson, George Moreton and Emily McVeigh. Two performances were given on the evenings of 26th and 27th of June in the Sports Hall. Many of the cast were looking forward to getting into the new Headmaster Porter Theatre for *Les Miserables*

Many of the same pupils enjoyed an interesting day in London in early June combining a visit to the Theatre Museum in Covent Garden with seats at the Fortune Theatre to see a performance of *Woman in Black*, one of the scariest theatrical experiences of all time. It provided the Year 10 Drama pupils with much to enjoy and excellent material for their GCSE portfolios. At the very start of the term the Year 11 GCSE groups performed their practical examinations to a visiting examiner. It was a pleasure to see many parents and friends of the performers in the drama studio audience for this occasion. The three productions, *Blood Brothers*, *Kes* and *Bouncers*, made for a strong sense of variety and contrast in the work which was most warmly endorsed by the audience.

Ms Dorothy Englert, Head of Drama