

Re: Competition to win FREE tickets for *The Crooked Spire* musical

Thursday 7th April 2022



Ashgate Heritage Arts

Dear []

I am writing to let you know about an exciting opportunity for your school to win free tickets for a class of up to 30 pupils in year 5 or 6 to come and see my upcoming musical, ***The Crooked Spire***, at the Pomegranate Theatre on Thursday 19th May (matinee performance).

Inspired by our rich local heritage and by the novel of the same name, written by Chris Nickson, the musical focuses on the story of a young carpenter called John, who has travelled to Chesterfield from York during the 1360s, to find work building the new spire on top of St Mary's Church.

There are some murders, and our hero gets the blame and has to clear his name to avoid being sent to the gallows. John makes friends along the way who help him solve the mystery and he also falls in love with a local seamstress, called Katherine.

Despite being based on a murder-mystery, the story is very much about the importance of standing up for the truth, being kind and helping your friends. It is a family friendly show – there is no violence and there are lots of catchy songs.

Thanks to funding from Arts Council England, we are able to offer one primary school in Chesterfield the chance to bring along a class of children to see the opening performance of the show for free.

To help us decide which school should receive the tickets we are inviting all primary schools within reasonable walking distance of the Pomegranate Theatre to submit an original artwork depicting the 'crooked spire' – otherwise known as St Mary and All Saints Church.

As a requirement of taking part, we would like you to include our promotional poster and a few words about the show in your school newsletter by Friday 6th May.

I have attached a Fact Sheet about the 'crooked spire' (which links with the Local History requirement on the National Curriculum) together with the art competition details, our promotional poster and our show 'blurb' for your school newsletter.

The winner will be selected by a panel of judges including Kate Dawson of Well Read PR and Amy Smith of Junction Arts and Revd Patrick Coleman, Vicar St Mary and All Saints Church.

The winning artwork will be displayed in the bar area at the Pomegranate Theatre during the week of the run of *The Crooked Spire* and will be promoted on social media.

I do hope your school will take part and I look forward to seeing your entries very soon.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Coslett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martin Coslett
Artistic Director, Ashgate Heritage Arts