

25th September 2024

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

### **RGS Musical 2025: Bonnie and Clyde**

After the success of *Shrek the Musical* in March 2024, the RGS Music Department is delighted to announce exciting plans for a whole school production of *Bonnie and Clyde*, to be staged in the Queen's Hall (Wednesday 19th March - Saturday 22nd March 2025). We have selected this show in part to contrast with previous RGS musicals and in order to provide plenty of opportunities for students to audition and gain a huge amount of experience, regardless of whether they have performed on stage before or not.

This show is open to all years, with a range of opportunities for both senior and junior students to have featured roles. *The show tells the story of two small-town kids who become America's most infamous couple, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. Frustrated with their ordinary lives, they both dream of exciting adventures, and their craving for thrills leads them through a life of crime and a life on the run. However, as their fame and ambition grows, so does their inevitable fate.*

I am delighted to work alongside Becky Harrison again, a professional director and choreographer, who has directed our previous productions of *The Producers*, *School of Rock*, *In The Heights*, *West Side Story* and *Shrek the Musical*, whilst also being heavily involved in the local Trinity Theatre Arts school that takes place on-site.

For further audition details, please read the attached file carefully (Audition Information) before filling in an audition form at your earliest convenience. Please use the attached QR code to gain access to the form, or follow the following link: <https://forms.gle/8dfVEZcebRkg7GV18>



Whether you have performed in numerous productions, or if this is your first show, I would strongly recommend coming to auditions and seeing what the show is all about. Do share widely with siblings, friends, and students from neighbouring schools who might also like to join us for the first round of auditions!

### Audition Dates:

Auditions will be held at RGS in the Queen's Hall on Sunday 27th October, and in the Upper Library on Tuesday 5th November. Please attend the relevant slot for your year group on either day. There is no advantage to choosing either date:

#### **Sunday 27th October:**

- 10:00-12:30 - Years 7-9 - singing, acting and movement audition
- 11:30-2:00 - Years 10-11 - singing, acting and movement audition
- 2:30-3:30 - All Years - featured dancer auditions
- 3:30-5:00 - Years 12-13 - singing, acting and movement audition

#### **Tuesday 5th November:**

- 3:30-5:30 - All Years - singing, acting and movement auditions

Recalls will be taking place on Sunday 10th November.

Please arrive at RGS 15 minutes before your slot, in comfortable clothes that you can move around in, and with water and snacks.

### Costume/Make-up:

If anyone has, or knows anyone with, expertise or interest in making or sourcing costumes, please contact us! This show also requires a certain degree of specialist make-up, so if anyone has expertise in this area we would love to hear about it. We welcome any helpers in these aspects so please have a think if you would like to be involved in this sense, or pass on to any young people or adults you know.

In addition to this, if you are skilled in scenery or prop making, or would like to volunteer to be a chaperone, please let us know by contacting the Music Office!

Finally, if you have any question regarding auditions, please encourage your child to speak to me in the Music Office, or indeed email me at [naj@rgshw.com](mailto:naj@rgshw.com). We hope to see you there!

Best wishes,

Mrs Natasha Jashari  
Director of Music

**The Royal Grammar School High Wycombe  
'BONNIE AND CLYDE' AUDITION INFORMATION**

**First round auditions - SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER OR TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER**

**Venue:** RGS, Queen's Hall (Sunday), Upper Library (Tuesday)

**What to wear:** You don't need to wear school uniform. Something comfortable you can move in. Please think about footwear, trainers would be ideal.

**Timings:**

**Sunday 27th October:**

- 10:00-12:30 - Years 7-9 - singing, acting and movement audition
- 11:30-2:00 - Years 10-11 - singing, acting and movement audition
- 2:30-3:30 - All Years - featured dancer optional audition
- 3:30-5:00 - Years 12-13 - singing, acting and movement audition

**Tuesday 5th November:**

- 3:30-5:30 - All Years - singing, acting and movement audition

**Who can audition?**

Anyone from RGS and female identifying students from partner schools. Candidates who are interested in a lead or speaking role must do an individual audition which will include both acting and singing.

**What happens at the audition?**

- **MOVEMENT/DANCE:** We will teach you a bit of movement with a song from the show and then you will perform this in groups
- **ACTING:** You will be asked to read a section of script provided on the day. You may be asked to read again with a different accent, or with a different given direction.
- **SINGING:**
  - **YEAR 7 TO 9:**
    - You'll learn a section of a song from the show and you'll be asked to sing a short section on your own

**YEAR 10 TO 13**

- Prepare a song of your own choice. You may choose any song (**ideally from a musical similar to *Bonnie and Clyde***) that shows off voice and character
- Try and cut the song to about 2 minutes long (or less)
- Bring your own sheet music for your song, or please bring a backing track. Ideally, you will not sing Acapella.
- If you would like to be considered for a lead role, it will be helpful if you are familiar with the songs that the character sings.
- Friendly advice: Please try and know your chosen song off by heart.
- You may be asked to stop before you have finished the whole song. This could be for any number of reasons, please do not think it is a bad thing.

**CHARACTER AND FEATURED DANCER AUDITIONS:** You will learn a more challenging dance than the group auditions, which will be in the style of the show.

**Recall Date:** SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2024

**Show Dates:** Wednesday 19th March - Saturday 22nd March 2025

**See you at the audition, GOOD LUCK!**

### Character Descriptions

#### **Clyde Barrow (Tenor):**

A very dynamic and charming character. He doesn't want an ordinary life, so he breaks out of jail to chase bigger dreams. When he meets Bonnie, they connect over their shared desire for a thrilling life. Clyde is driven by a strong wish for excitement and has a natural ability to attract attention, making him a key figure in the story.

#### **Bonnie Parker (Mezzo-Soprano):**

Tired of her mundane experience, she joins forces with Clyde, and their love story unfolds amidst gunfire and heists. Bonnie's determination, vulnerability, and fierce loyalty to Clyde make her a complex and unforgettable character. Her dreams of stardom collide with the harsh reality of their criminal life, leading to a tragic fate.

#### **Marvin 'Buck' Barrow (Tenor):**

Clyde's brother, who also joins in their risky lifestyle. Buck supports Clyde and Bonnie, adding an interesting twist to their story. He struggles with choosing between his family loyalty and the thrill of their criminal activities. This conflict makes Buck a fascinating and complex character.

#### **Ted Hinton (Tenor):**

A supporting character, he is a lawman torn between duty and personal feelings. His pursuit of Bonnie and Clyde is fuelled by conflicting emotions, as he grapples with admiration for their audacity and the need to uphold justice.

#### **Henry Barrow (Tenor, Baritone, Bass):**

Another of Clyde's brothers, joins the infamous duo in their criminal endeavours. His loyalty to family and his struggle to reconcile their actions with his own principles make him a multifaceted character.

#### **Sheriff Schmid (Tenor, Baritone, Bass):**

The embodiment of law and order, relentlessly pursues Bonnie and Clyde. His unwavering commitment to justice puts him on a collision course with the daring duo. As the tension escalates, Sheriff Schmid becomes a formidable adversary, determined to bring them to justice.

#### **Young Bonnie and Young Clyde:**

The younger versions of the protagonists, these characters offer a glimpse into their formative years. Their innocence contrasts sharply with the criminal paths they eventually choose. These flashback sequences reveal the seeds of rebellion and longing for adventure that shapes their future.

**Preacher (Tenor):**

A moral compass in this chaotic tale, grapples with the consequences of Bonnie and Clyde's actions. His sermons echo themes of redemption and salvation, providing a thought-provoking counterpoint to the criminal exploits unfolding around him.

**Captain Frank Hamer (Tenor, Baritone, Bass):**

A seasoned Texas Ranger, takes up the challenge of capturing the fugitives. His relentless pursuit and determination to bring them to justice add suspense to the storyline.

**Blanche Barrow (Mezzo-Soprano):**

Buck's wife, who finds herself caught in the crossfire. Her internal struggle between loyalty to her husband and fear of the law creates a poignant subplot.

**Cumie Barrow (Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Alto):**

Clyde's mother, she grapples with the consequences of her son's choices. Her emotional journey reflects the impact of their criminal life on family bonds.

**Emma Parker (Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Alto):**

Bonnie's mother, she experiences heartache as her daughter's involvement with Clyde deepens. Her protective instincts clash with Bonnie's rebellious spirit.

**Governor Miriam Ferguson (Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Alto):**

A powerful political figure, faces the challenge of maintaining law and order while dealing with the Bonnie and Clyde phenomenon. Her decisions shape the fate of the protagonists.

**Bob Alcorn (Tenor, Baritone, Bass):**

A journalist who chronicles the escapades of Bonnie and Clyde. His reporting adds an intriguing layer to the narrative, blurring the lines between fame and infamy.

**Ensemble (Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone, Bass)**