**Junior Bancroft Players Report for AGM 3rd September 2021**

It has been a rather disrupted year for the Juniors with sessions having a bit of a stop/start arrangement throughout the year. However despite this the Juniors still managed to put on a production in July this year. “From The Chaos” was a Greek theatre style story of the Gods and the elements on Earth. The cast were split into two halves in order to keep them all as safe as possible and then put together into one show when restrictions lifted slightly.

The children completely committed themselves to this production and every one of them performed brilliantly and I could not have been prouder of them especially under the circumstances of putting on a show during a very challenging time for everyone involved.

We also managed to make up a few missed sessions by rehearsing through half term.

The show ran for two nights both of which were free to attend to make up for the disruption that had been caused to the group. The children were thrilled to play to full houses both nights (Socially distanced of course).

Thank you to everyone who came to support them and for the fantastic comments afterwards which the children were all absolutely thrilled about.

Thank you as well to Roman and Tom for great technical support and to Clive and particularly Christine who created an amazing set both on stage and in the foyer.

We have had to keep numbers low this year in order to be able to socially distance during sessions and rehearsals but now that things seem to be moving in the right direction I am hoping to be able to invite more children into the group from the ever increasing waiting list. We have been running with 12 children only but will have 15 in September and are hoping to get back to 20 as soon as we can. There are children on the waiting list.

My plan is to increase fees for new members from September from £150 for the year to £175. I have left existing members on the old rate rather than offering a refund for missed sessions.

The children are very excited to now be working on our production of “Macbeth” which will be in the main house in February.

We are looking forward to next year and hoping that there will be no disruption and sessions can continue to run throughout the year and the children can continue to enjoy their learning, performing and being together as a group. We will continue to exercise caution. The anti-bac will still play a large part for a while and we will continue with the procedure we have in place for dropping off and picking up so that we don’t have large crowds gathering in the foyer but hopefully as things improve we can start to get back to more social interaction for both the children and parents.

Claudia O’Connell