



## FAQs ABOUT FILMING ON 26<sup>TH</sup> AND 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020

### 1. Why are you filming?

We have been approached by a company called The Garden - the documentary production company that makes '24 Hours in A & E' and '24 Hours in Police Custody' and other documentaries. The Garden have been asked by a major UK Broadcaster to look into the possibility of making a documentary about a school.

The Garden have produced some information about their filming plans and this is below.

More information about the company is on their website <http://www.thegardenproductions.tv/>

### 2. Why has the Royal Alexandra and Albert School been chosen for this documentary?

A Producer from The Garden visited a number of schools and chose us because of our diverse and happy community. She found this to be a warm and caring school and was impressed with the pupils and staff here.

### 3. What is happening on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February?

The Garden will be coming to the School to film a 'Taster Tape' which will be a 5-minute film they will use to show the Broadcaster the sort of things they would include in a documentary series. The film will not be broadcast.

### 4. Has the School agreed to go ahead with this documentary?

Not yet. At the moment we are working with The Garden to explore how it would work for them and for us. We will not go ahead unless we think it is the right thing for this school.

### 5. Who will decide whether we go ahead with the documentary series?

If, after seeing the Taster Tape, the Broadcaster is interested in going ahead with the documentary series, the decision about whether to proceed will be taken by the SLT, the Headmaster, the Board of Management and the Governing Body.

#### 6. Surely there are big risks involved with allowing TV cameras into School?

We are aware of the concerns about a TV programme potentially showing this school in a bad light. We are also aware that raising the profile of the School might prompt people to try and harm our reputation. These are not necessarily reasons for not proceeding, but clearly we would need to put in place measures to manage any risks. We won't go ahead at all unless we feel we can trust The Garden to deliver a programme that we feel is fair, balanced and does not harm our reputation.

#### 7. So, if there are risks involved, why are you considering going ahead with the documentary?

There is very little awareness of state boarding schools and a series like this would raise awareness. We feel that many prospective parents would be grateful to know there is an affordable option they might not have been aware of before. Raising awareness of this school would also help to overcome preconceptions that boarding schools are only for the rich and privileged.

#### 8. If the decision is to go ahead with the documentary, do I have to be involved?

No.

We will be getting in touch directly with staff and pupils who might be involved in the non-broadcast Taster Tape. We will only film staff and pupils who have agreed to participate in filming.

#### 9. Will the filming disrupt the school day?

We will endeavour to minimise the impact on pupils and staff whilst filming.

If you have any questions please contact Helen Pollard, Director of Marketing  
[helenpollard@gatton-park.org.uk](mailto:helenpollard@gatton-park.org.uk)

14<sup>th</sup> February 2020

# THE GARDEN

PRODUCTIONS LTD

## Royal Alexandra & Albert School – non-broadcast research filming

### Information for parents/guardians and students

**WHAT ARE WE DOING?** The Garden Productions are currently researching a potential TV project for a major broadcaster about the important role State Boarding Schools play in the education system, showcasing in particular the excellent work being done at the highly regarded and award-winning Royal Alexandra & Albert State Boarding School.

This project is in the early stages of research and is currently being discussed with the school and considered by a major UK Broadcaster.

As well as spending time at the school conducting research, we would also like to do a small amount of preliminary filming for the purposes of producing a short research tape that we would share with the broadcaster to enable them to get a flavour of the school, its staff and the students. This research tape will **not** be broadcast on television and will only be seen by a small number of people at the production company and broadcaster.

If at a later stage we would like to transmit any of the footage we film within the school at this point, we would discuss this with you, and only students, parents or staff who give their full written consent would be featured in any future broadcast series.

**WHEN WILL FILMING HAPPEN AND FOR HOW LONG?** We will spend a couple of days at the school researching the project, speaking to some of the staff and students. We plan to do some informal filming for 2 days on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February. As stated, anything we film at this point is not intended for broadcast.

**WHERE WILL WE BE FILMING?** In order to give a sense of the broadest range of school life, we would like to film across the entire school estate, including the sporting facilities, some of the classrooms and in the boarding houses. When filming in the boarding houses, we will make sure that students' privacy and dignity is respected at all times. We will be accompanied by a member of staff who will make sure that we are not filming with any students who do not wish (or whose parents/guardians do not wish) to be filmed.

**HOW WILL WE FILM IT?** For this short research filming we will capture footage with a single, small hand held camera. The production team will consist of a senior producer, a director and a producer. For the purposes of this preliminary filming we will be accompanied at all times by a member of RAAS staff.

### **TAKING PART/NOT TAKING PART**

Students and staff are under no obligation to take part in the non-broadcast research filming. Only students who wish to take part and whose parents/guardians have given permission, via the schools Google form, will be filmed.

Obviously, to best capture life at school, we would like to involve as many students as possible. Contributions may range from something as simple as being in the back ground when filming is taking place to giving short, on camera interviews. For those students that are interviewed on camera we will be asking for written consent for footage to be included in the non-broadcast research tape.

**WILL IT TAKE UP A LOT OF STUDENT OR STAFF TIME?** We do not expect the filming to take up much additional student and staff time. If we would like to conduct short interviews with students, we will endeavor to do this in their lunch breaks or before and after school so that we don't disturb their lessons.

**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER WE FINISH FILMING?** If, after this research period, both the school and The Garden wish to continue to explore the possibility of working together, we will contact you again to provide more detailed information about the project, outline the next steps and also make sure there are opportunities for parents and carers to meet members of the production team to address questions and any concerns. Only then would we ask if you are happy for your child to take part in any broadcast series should it be commissioned.

**WHO ARE THE GARDEN PRODUCTIONS?** The Garden was founded in 2010 and is one of the UK's leading documentary production companies. Over the last decade we've produced over 400 hours of critically-acclaimed television, winning BAFTAs, a Royal Television Society award and multiple Broadcast awards. The company is known for its high-quality factual filmmaking. We have worked with both major public institutions, police forces, hospital trusts and prestigious global brands such as Rolls Royce, Virgin Atlantic and Claridge's. We have extensive experience filming in sensitive environments, with vulnerable contributors as well as filming with children under the age of 18.

Our credits include the award-winning Channel 4 series **24 Hours in A&E** and **24 Hours in Police Custody**. **Planet Child** and **Virgin Atlantic: Up in the Air** for ITV, **Keeping Britain Alive: The NHS in a Day**, **Inside Claridge's** and **The Baby Has Landed** for BBC2 and **Professor Green Living in Poverty** for BBC3.

If you would like any further information about our company please visit our website [www.thegardenproductions.tv/privacy-policy](http://www.thegardenproductions.tv/privacy-policy) Our privacy notice can also be found here <http://www.thegardenproductions.tv/privacy-policy> with information on how they hold data.

***We hope that this information will answer some of the key questions you may have; of course, it will not answer everything. If you have any further questions please feel free to approach us while we are in the school or to contact us on:***

***Production Team contact:***

Jess Waite  
[school@thegarden.tv](mailto:school@thegarden.tv)  
020 8123 1912

***Many thanks***  
***The Garden Productions***