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# ROYAL ALEXANDRA & ALBERT SCHOOL



13<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Parent,

I am writing to let you know that Royal Alexandra & Albert have been approached by a television production company called The Garden Productions to see if we would potentially be interested in taking part in an exciting TV project being developed for a major UK broadcaster that will celebrate the important role that State Boarding Schools play in the education system.

The ambition is to produce a warm, inspirational and important documentary series that sensitively captures life at RAAS, featuring the experiences of both staff and a diverse range of pupils.

The Garden Productions is a highly respected television production company that makes a range of factual programmes including the award-winning series 24 Hours in A&E and 24 Hours in Police Custody for Channel 4, Planet Child and Virgin Atlantic: Up in the Air for ITV, Inside Claridge's and The Baby Has Landed for BBC2 and Professor Green: Living In Poverty for BBC3.

A small team from The Garden recently visited RAAS and were really impressed with the ethos of school, the facilities, and the positive energy of the students and its teachers. They are hoping to spend some more time in the school over the next month to explore further the possibility of making a series with us. As well as observing day-to-day life, they plan to do a small amount of preliminary filming on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February for a non-broadcast research tape to give those responsible for commissioning the potential series a flavour of our school. I'd like to reassure you that any filming they do undertake would not be for the purpose of broadcast on television and not for public consumption.

If, after this research period, both the school and The Garden are keen to continue to move forward with the project, we will contact you again to provide more detailed information about the series and ask if you are happy for your child to take part. We will also make sure that there are opportunities for parents and carers to meet with members of the production team to talk through any questions or concerns. At this early stage however, we felt it was important to let you know what was happening.

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.

I am also attaching a fact sheet from The Garden that relates to the filming, which I hope you find helpful. If you have any questions about the project, please don't hesitate to contact me via the school's switchboard. You are also welcome to speak to the project's producer Jess Waite if you have any further questions. Jess can be contacted on 0208 1231912 or via the email [school@thegarden.tv](mailto:school@thegarden.tv)

If you would like to find out more about The Garden Productions please visit their website at [www.thegardenproductions.tv](http://www.thegardenproductions.tv)

Thank you for your time. I look forward to keeping you informed of further developments.

Best wishes,  
**Mark Dixon**  
Headmaster