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12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### **Invitation to participate in D-Day 80 National Commemorative Event**

It gives me great pleasure to write to you and formally invite a delegation of your students to the National Commemorative Event being held to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day landings.

#### **What is it?**

Taking place on **Southsea Common between 11.00am and 12.30pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024**, the event will be broadcast live in partnership with BBC Studios and will tell the story of events leading up to D-Day. The production will capture the very best of the human spirit through a series of incredibly moving and inspiring performances showcasing creative storytelling, personal testimonies, and musical performances.

The themes of legacy and remembrance will run throughout the performance, and as this is likely the last significant commemorative event with surviving veterans, we wish to share this occasion with a young audience **aged between 10 and 18**. If your school has a Combined Cadet Force, Air Cadet, Sea Scout or other similar detachment, then attendance in uniform is to be encouraged.

As you know, Portsmouth and the surrounding areas played a crucial role in the build-up and execution of D-Day and the powerful symbolism of this 'passing of the baton' between generations will be something genuinely special to be a part of.

#### **How much?**

In terms of cost, you will undoubtedly be pleased to hear that **tickets for the event are free**. At the present time there is no central funding for coaches (if needed), but Portsmouth City Council are planning to establish dedicated Park and Ride hubs for the event that can help to safely transport pupils from schools outside of walking distance.

Furthermore, **there may be an exciting opportunity for some children to participate in the production itself**. Involving students will greatly enrich the event and reinforce the message of legacy. If any of your students has a particular interest in being involved, please can you add their basic details in your initial reply. If chosen, rest assured BBC Studios will arrange suitable Child Performance Licenses, parental consent, and training for their part.

We understand the importance of maintaining high attendance and causing minimum disruption to the academic calendar – particularly in 'exam season'. However, this will be a unique and valuable experience for students, linking as it does not only their formal curriculum but also broader educational points about society, service, and sacrifice.

## How to grab your free tickets?

With c.4,000 seats available to schools, veterans' groups and the general public, there is abundant space for local young people. Blocks of 20, 30 and 50 are traditionally the most popular with schools as they tally with coach sizes. If you would like a specific number, or a much larger allocation then please do not hesitate to ask when you apply to reserve tickets.

In the first instance, schools and colleges should reply to the mail address below, and include:

- Number of tickets you wish to be allocated.
- Age range of children covered.
- If any children have mobility restrictions which will need seating assistance (wheelchairs etc).
- If any of those will be representing uniformed Cadet organisations (if applicable).
- If any children wish to be put forward for possible inclusion in the production (and age).
- Named point of contact for subsequent admin liaison.
- Replies should be sent to: [People-DSSec-DDay80Mailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:People-DSSec-DDay80Mailbox@mod.gov.uk)
- Email subject lines should take the following form so that we can correctly identify, track, and respond to your enquiry:

Subj: **NCE Portsmouth Tickets – {Insert Name of School}**

## What happens next?

Once we have received your request for tickets, your school will have its provisional allocation confirmed within 48 hours of receipt. The final ticket allocation is being controlled by Ticketmaster and by use of codes. When we are in receipt of the final numbers, we will forward the individual code to your School where the lead organiser will be able to register the full details of each attendee.

We very much hope that you and your students will wish to attend and support this high-profile national event. Due to a likely strong demand for places, **please can you reply by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April** so that you do not miss out on this spectacular occasion.

Yours Faithfully,

Anna Kimber

Programme Director  
D-Day 80