

## **YESTERDAY NEVER RETURNS by Laurence Allan**

*'Yesterday never returns'* is the old school motto of Lewis School Pengam and also an appropriate aphorism for every soldier who engages in a war for his or her country. And perhaps even more so for the people they leave behind.

This specially commissioned play will look at two soldiers, ex pupils of Lewis School, separated by a hundred years, one, D.A.P Evans, the first to fight for his country in the Great War Of 1914 – 18, the war to end all wars and the other, Lloyd Davies, the last soldier to be sent to Afghanistan in 2014.

The narrative is driven by a series of letters written home from the front and inspired by the discovery of a scrapbook of actual letters from the first world war written by ex pupils to the former Headmaster of Lewis Boys, Arthur Wright, the Mr. Chips of his day

As a counterpoint, another series of letters is imagined, written from the cells of Wormwood Scrubs during the war. These are the words of another ex pupil, conscientious objector, Morgan Jones who went on to become MP for Caerphilly.

The spirit of Morgan Jones haunts both campaigns and both soldiers as we approach 2015 which could well be a watershed as one that sees no active involvement by the British military for a hundred years. The play will follow the lives of these young men, and the questions they come to ask and we ask of them.

The play has special poignancy as it will be performed by young people the same age as those young people who went to war and gave the ultimate sacrifice. As well as commemorating the immense sacrifice of that lost generation it will also celebrate the optimism, good humour and sense of justice of the youth of today.