

# Welcome to the Drama Department

Subject Leader: Ms M Jackson

Teachers: Mr M Ledger, Mrs C Haywood

## Subject Overview

### Key Stage 4: Years 9 – 11

GCSE Drama students explore a range of Drama as a practical art form, and work independently to create their own drama performances, making informed artistic choices. The qualification allows students to study drama in an academic setting, interrogating this art form and applying their knowledge and understanding to the process of creating and developing drama and applying this to their own performance work. The GCSE Drama course will help create independent students, critical thinkers and effective decision-makers, all personal attributes that can make students stand out as they progress through education and into employment. Students are assessed through a combination of performance work, coursework and, finally, a written examination. The course allows students to develop their practical acting skills through studying published play-texts, and through devising their own performance, stemming from a set stimulus. Students actively explore the roles of acting, devising, design and directing throughout the course.

### Post 16

The A Level Drama and Theatre course is designed to provide a balance across a range of learning activities. This specification combines the activities of exploring plays, creating theatre, the performing of plays, the analysis of theatre and the critical evaluation of all of these elements. Students develop a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, highly toned analytical and creative skills and an ability to communicate effectively with others.

## Teaching Aims and Objectives

Our principal aim is for students to develop their interest and enjoyment in drama and theatre both as participants and as informed members of an audience. In addition:

- The Drama Department aims to engage and enthuse students about theatre and the performing arts.
- We intend for students to develop their performance skills and have the opportunity to explore themes and issues relevant to present-day society.
- The Drama Department aims to engage students with both the practical and written components of the course, with much emphasis being on both verbal and written analysis as a transferrable skill.
- The Drama Department believes that all students should be able to work with any of their peers, and feel confident to contribute within group discussion.
- We ensure students experience a range of opportunities, such as seeing live theatre performances and practitioner workshops. These experiences are provided to develop a variety of dramatic and theatrical skills, enabling them to grow creatively and imaginatively in both devised and scripted work.

## Course Information

### Key Stage 4

Year 9: The first year of the GCSE Drama course allows students to develop the skills required for the course. They will have the opportunity to explore the play text of 'Blood Brothers' both practically and in terms of practice exam papers, and will also have the opportunity to devise their own performance materials based on a set stimulus. In addition to this skills-based year students will be simultaneously working towards an Arts Award Bronze qualification which is embedded throughout the course. The Arts Award course both inspires and enthuses students to connect with, and take part in, the wider arts world through taking challenges in an art form. They will have the opportunity to develop their creativity and leadership skills.

Year 10: Devising Drama: Students will create their own devised performance based on a chosen stimulus from the exam board stimulus paper. In addition to the performance, students will be marked on an accompanying portfolio with evidence of the process and decisions made whilst creating and developing their performance.

Year 11: Unit 2 - 'Drama in the Making': Students will create their own devised performance based on a set stimulus. Students will take on the role of a designer and create their own costume/set design for their devised performance and craft a monologue performance that stems from the set stimulus. Students will also be assessed on a written controlled assessment that accompanies this process.

Unit 3 - 'From Concept to Creation': Students will be set a brief by OCR and will have the option to either stage the extract provided, or to devise an original performance piece using the stimuli provided. In addition to the final performance exam, students will write a controlled assessment piece that is submitted to an external examiner who will visit in April.

### Post 16

Year 12: This qualification requires students to study two complete and substantial performance texts (Components 3) and a minimum of three key extracts from three different texts placed in the context of the whole text (Components 1 and 2). Within the first year of the A-level course students will be developing their knowledge, skills and understanding of Drama and Theatre through the exploration of the text 'Frankenstein' by Nick Dear (after Mary Shelley). From this they will devise their own performance in the style of a set practitioner which will be accompanied by coursework, internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 3 will be taught simultaneously where students will be studying the set texts: 'The Accidental Death of an Anarchist' by Dario Fo, and 'Woyzeck' by Georg Buchner in preparation for the written exam which takes at the end of the course. Students will experience live theatre performances through trips made available to them, developing their written analysis in preparation for the written exam.

Year 13: Unit 3 - Exploration of Dramatic Performance (40% Devised Performance)  
Students will create a devised, full performance based on their research from a set stimulus. Students will be assessed on the process, performance and

their supported written evidence documentation that accompanies the process.

Unit 4 - Theatre Text in Context (60% Written Exam) In Unit 4, students will:

- study a set text
- see a performance of a play from a specified period of history

The assessment for this unit will be a written examination lasting 2 hours and 30 minutes.

There will be three sections in the examination:

Sections A and B – questions on the set text 'Woyzeck' by Georg Buchner

Section C – questions on the performance of a Shakespearian play

## **Homework Expectations (Including ICT resources and websites)**

GCSE students are set homework once a week to meet the demands of the course. There may be occasions when more homework is necessary.

A Level students are expected to support their study with extra research and wider reading. They are set a combination of written and research-based homework, with compulsory weekly rehearsal time set for units 2, 3 and 4.

Recommended Websites for Support:

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize)

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/gcse/dram](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/gcse/dram)

[www.digitaltheatre.com](http://www.digitaltheatre.com)

[www.orc.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-drama-i315-from -2009](http://www.orc.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-drama-i315-from -2009)

[www.nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk)

## **Extra-Curricular Opportunities**

Whole-school production takes place after school on a Thursday, alternating between a touring pantomime and musical each year. (Additional after-school rehearsals take place closer to the production)

Musical Theatre Society

Musical Theatre Trips (offered to whole-school)

GCSE and A-level specific theatre trips

## **Marking and Assessment**

Students' work is marked regularly to acknowledge their learning, knowledge and understanding. Students' development of performance skills is monitored and observed regularly, with timely performance assessments and feedback.

Dialogic marking and formative assessment is used to ensure that students have the opportunity to develop and improve both their written and performance work.

Key stage 4 work is marked in accordance with the OCR GCSE Drama band/grade descriptors.

A Level work is marked and assessed in accordance with the Edexcel GCE band/grade descriptors.

## **Examinations**

GCSE Drama (OCR)

**Year 9:** To ensure students achieve their maximum potential whilst developing their knowledge, skills and understanding required within GCSE Drama; they will have the opportunity to work towards an Arts Award – Bronze – qualification, which supports both the GCSE Drama course and the developmental year.

<http://www.artsaward.org.uk/site/?id=65>

Written and Practical mocks take place throughout this year.

**Year 10:** Component 01/02 Devising Drama – (30%)

**Year 11:** Unit 2: Drama in the Making – 30%

Unit 3: From Concept to Creation – 40%

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/231466-gcse-9-1-drama-summary-brochure.pdf>

**A level: Edexcel**

**Year 12:** Component 1 (40%) Devising – Performance and Coursework. Internally assessed and externally moderated.

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/drama-and-theatre-2016.html>

**Year 13:** Unit 4: Theatre Text in Context (60% Written Exam)

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/drama-and-theatre-studies-2008.html>