

Drama

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Curriculum Intent: To deliver a challenging, engaging, broad and accessible curriculum across all three key stages. Valuing the individual and achieving excellence. To provide a skills-based spiral curriculum that builds on students' basic ability with a focus on skills, practitioners, a variety of theatrical genres and analytical skills. To create confident performers with a genuine understanding and passion for the subject; providing a strong foundation to study the subject beyond GCSE & A-level. If not a career in the arts, we intend to foster well rounded individuals with excellent communication skills to support any career they pursue.

Core Knowledge

Topics:

The application of skills to be an effective actor.
The art of directing and designing for theatre.
Being an informed member of an audience through analysis and evaluation.

Y10 Unit Titles:

C1: Devising Theatre – working from a stimulus to create an original piece of theatre and a portfolio and evaluation responding to the process and final performance. This will be formally examined internally in the summer term of Y10 and externally moderated. Students can specialise as either an actor or designer - 40% of qualification.

C3: Interpreting Theatre – written exam paper on a set text and response to live theatre. We will be preparing for this in Y10 but it will not be formally examined until summer in Y11.

Y11 Unit Titles:

C2: Performing from a Text – performance of an extract of text in groups to an external examiner. Students can specialise as either an actor or designer. This will be formally examined externally in the Spring Term of Y11. 20% of the qualification.

C3: Interpreting Theatre – written exam paper on a set text and response to live theatre. Formally examined in summer term of Y11. 40% of the qualification.

Procedural Knowledge

Students will:

Interpret character – character interaction, vocal skills, movement skills etc. Exploration of rehearsal techniques that develop characterisation for performance.

Apply skills to create performance work – consideration given to creating mood and atmosphere, performance conventions etc.

Realise design – set, lighting, sound, props, costume, hair and make-up.

Be an effective cast member – communication skills, leadership skills, working collaboratively, compromising, problem solving, being creative.

Interpret plays – from the point of view of a director, actor and designer. Exploration of the social, cultural, historical and political contexts. How do we communicate to audiences?

Explore the structure of play
plot/theme/form/style/genre/dialogue.

Explore the history of theatre – exploration of the original performance conditions of the set text.

Explore Contemporary Theatre Companies – supports the devising process for C1.

Understanding theatre practice – exploration of theatre practitioners.

Understand theatre space – the four main staging configurations, stage positioning, proxemics, actor/audience relationship, actor interaction and audience awareness.

Experience live theatre – opportunities to attend the theatre across the year and access to Drama Online. It is an essential part of C3 – responding to the experience of live theatre.

Analysis and evaluation of theatre is an essential part of the coursework and written examination.

Homework:

The setting of homework will vary depending on the unit of work being studied. Students will be set homework weekly. Homework will be set with the purpose of:

1. Developing students' evaluative and analytical written skills in response to practical work completed in lessons.
2. Developing students' analytical skills with regards to responding to a play or live production.
3. Practise exam technique through setting of exam style essays.
4. Completing coursework.
5. Providing an opportunity to develop a creative piece of work independently – e.g. script writing, creative designs etc.
6. Summarising students' understanding of Drama vocabulary and terminology.
7. Rehearsal of performance work.

Homework tasks vary from evaluations of practical work, research tasks, rehearsing or learning lines for a performance. The written homework generally refers to practical work from lessons or live professional performances students must make notes in lessons in order to help with the completion of their homework.

Assessment:

Y10

During whole school examination weeks students will be assessed on C3: Interpreting Theatre. This will require revision of the set text and a live theatre review.

During Term 3 students will complete C1: Devising Theatre. They will be assessed on their performance and supporting coursework and an evaluation completed in controlled timed conditions.

Y11

During whole school examination weeks students will be assessed on C3: Interpreting Theatre. This will require revision of the set text and a live theatre review.

During Term 2 students will complete C2: Performing from a text. They will be assessed by an external examiner who will come into school to assess their performance or design skill.

The C3: Interpreting Theatre final written examination will be during the scheduled summer GCSE examination season.

Links to Personal Development:

Careers in the theatre industry – including acting, directing, playwrighting, stage design, costume design, sound design, lighting design, stage management, set construction.

Personal & social development – including confidence building, communication skills, team working skills, leadership skills.

If not a career in the arts, we intend to foster well rounded individuals with excellent communication skills to support any career they pursue.

How is my knowledge developed further at Key Stage Five?

C1: Theatre Workshop – Creating an original performance inspired by a professionally published play in the style of a practitioner/theatre company. A portfolio submitted that evaluates the process. You have an option of being assessed as an actor or designer. Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated - 20% of qualification.

C2: Text in Action – Two performances. One creating an original performance from a stimulus and one performing from a text. Coursework submitted that evaluates the process and final performances. You have an option of being assessed as an actor or designer. Non exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner - 40% of the qualification.

C3: Text in Performance – The study of three set texts from the point of view of an actor, director and designer. The analysis and evaluation of live theatre. Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes - 40% of qualification.