



GCSE Drama

Course Aims



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The GCSE in Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. The specification promotes involvement in and enjoyment of drama, as performers and/or designers. Additionally, it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members. Learners will be given opportunities to participate in and interpret their own and others' drama. Learners have the option to work practically as performers and/or designers in Components 1 and 2. They will also have the opportunity to participate in the performance of an extract from a play text. Learners will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama, including their ability to interpret texts for performance, in a written examination. However, in preparation for this assessment, learners are encouraged to study their chosen text practically as a performer, designer and director.

The GCSE in Drama offers a broad and coherent course of study which enables learners to:

- apply knowledge and understanding when making, performing and responding to drama
- explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created
- develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performances
- work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas
- develop as creative, effective, independent and reflective learners able to make informed choices in process and performance
- contribute as an individual to a theatrical performance
- reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others
- develop an awareness and understanding of the roles and processes undertaken in contemporary professional theatre practice
- adopt safe working practices.

Course Outline

○ Component 1: Devising

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated

40% of qualification

Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using techniques of an influential theatre practitioner, genre, in response to a stimulus. Students also complete a 2000-word Portfolio which documents their learning journey.

○ Component 2: Performance from Text

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner

20% of qualification

Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners study and perform two extracts from the same performance text chosen by the school.

○ Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

40% of qualification

Section A: Set Text for assessment – DNA by Dennis Kelly. A series of questions on acting techniques and theatrical concepts.

Section B: Live Theatre Review. One analysis question on one key moment, and one evaluation question on the whole performance. One focuses on how acting skills have been portrayed and the other on design features.

Cross-Curricular Links



Drama provides students with an extensive amount of transferable skills that can be used across all subjects at school. Some of those skills include:

- Critical Thinking
- Motivation
- Communication
- Confidence
- Teamwork
- Negotiation and conflict management
- Creativity
- Working well under pressure and meeting deadlines.



Career Pathways



Careers directly linked to drama:

Actor
Drama therapist
Theatre Director
Producer
Playwright
Theatre Stage Manager
Community Arts Worker
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Set Designer
Costume Designer
TV Broadcaster
Casting Director
Talent Agent



Careers where drama would be useful:

Teacher
Lawyer
Digital Marketer
Events Manager
Film or TV Producer
Theatre Marketing Manager
Outreach Worker
Youth Worker

Higher Education



Universities

- University of Warwick
- University of Exeter
- University of York
- University of Manchester
- Lancaster University
- University of Surrey
- University of Bristol
- University of Leeds

Drama Schools

- Royal Central School of Speech and Drama
- Guildford School of Acting
- Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance
- East 15 Acting School
- Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts
- London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts
- Royal Academy of Dramatic Art
- Bristol Old Vic





Holcombe Habits in Drama



Empathy and Understanding

Considering another person's thoughts and ideas; actively listening; being open-minded when encountering the perspectives and emotions of others.

Creative Thinking

Generating new and novel ideas; originality and innovation.

Taking Responsible Risks

Being adventurous; living on the edge of one's competence.

Continuous Learning

Being reflective; resisting complacency; using our mistakes to grow and having humility when admitting we don't know something.

Thinking Interdependently

Being able to work in and learn from others in reciprocal situations; contributing to a team.