

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies Edexcel

Find out more



LINEAR

Why study Drama and Theatre Studies?

Drama and Theatre Studies is a subject that demonstrates your ability both practically and academically. It asks you to consider man's strengths and frailties, question the world around you, whilst discovering more about yourself. The results for A Level Drama this year were in the top 15% of the country which is a great achievement and show the dedication of our students and staff. What students enjoy most is the opportunity to be creative, making original pieces of theatre whilst performing and studying a variety of plays. In lessons we spend time exploring in an interactive way and students are encouraged to develop skills in presentation of facts as well as performance to an audience. You will also see exciting new theatre and get to work with others learning skills in collaboration, communication, and leadership.

About the course

The course challenges students to create an original piece of theatre inspired by an extract and their own research. Students keep a record of the process which is also assessed. They also perform two scripts to an examiner, for this section as with the devising candidates, they have the opportunity to either perform or design one of the technical elements of theatre. The final exam involves students responding to a live piece of theatre, analysing how they would play a character and design for a set text, and finally discuss their directorial interpretation of a play. We offer a two-year linear A Level course and choose our texts and practitioners to suit the group of students we have each year.

Year 12

In Year 12 students are introduced to a variety of theatre practitioners and texts. They will perform a section of their set text and prepare for the devising section of the exam. By the end of the first-year students will have performed their devised piece and completed their portfolio. This is component one of the course and makes up 40% of the final A Level.

Year 13

In Year 13 students will study their second set text and create a directorial vision for the play inspired by a practitioner. They will complete their performance exam to an external examiner. This consists of two sections, firstly they will perform a monologue or a duologue and then a group piece from a contrasting play. This is often done as an evening performance so that family and friends can come and support. Then they finally revise for the written exam.

Assessment

Component 1: Devising - 10% performing 30% portfolio. Internally assessed and then moderated.

Component 2: Performance - An externally assessed performance exam. 20%

Component 3 Written exam. 40%. Externally marked.

Entry criteria

It is recommended that students have a grade 6 or above at GCSE Drama and at least a grade 5 or above in English.

Outside the classroom

The more theatre that students have seen will benefit them and participating in productions and any other extra-curricular Drama activities, although this is not essential. During the course we will go on theatre visits which have included residential trips to Stratford and local theatres. We expect students to rehearse outside of lesson time and have also had workshops from theatre practitioners.

