



PERFORMING ARTS

Why is the study of Drama important?

Drama is an essential area of Performing Arts which means practically exploring performance methods and techniques, as well as developing analytical skills through the evaluation of live and recorded performance work. Performing Arts also means the use of drama and dance techniques to explore issue based work relating to personal development and moral/ethical dilemmas. Its study will require you to question the purpose of performance and the intention of a range of practitioners/theatre makers and playwrights in their creation of performance work.

You will also explore your own creative intention and develop your personal performance skills in expressing your thoughts and ideas through the medium of drama. Performance studies will encourage you to express your personal views within group work and through the creative choices you make about your choreography, devised drama and/or scripted work.

From Year 7 you will have the exciting opportunity to develop your practical understanding of performance skills including techniques such as characterisation and physical/vocal expression and devising. In Drama you will also learn all of the basic drama techniques to create your unique work including still images, thought tracks, narration, blocking, split staging and movement devices. You will perform your work regularly in order to develop your confidence and a strong understanding of the audience experience. Your study of Performing Arts will encourage you to think deeply and help you to effectively express yourself – a great life skill that all universities and employers will appreciate.

Across your study of Drama, you will explore a number of professional theatre practitioners including Stanislavski and Brecht, which will extend your understanding of acting approaches and the creative process. You will analyse a range of text extracts and use your understanding of the plot, characters and style to stage your own version of the text. The Performing Arts classroom will be brimming with practical opportunities for you to express yourself and share your ideas with others.

Big Questions such as why people create performance and the intended impact on their audience will be considered through study of this subject. You will develop your understanding of how performance has changed over the centuries and consider the reason why this might be.

Study of Performing Arts will encourage you to question the purpose of performance through the analysis of ground-breaking performance companies such as 'Frantic Assembly' and 'Complicite'. In Drama, you will explore playwrights that have a very clear intention for their work such as Dennis Kelly, who uses his scripted texts to explore current issues such as bullying and peer pressure. You will extend your understanding of how playwrights may use their work to make social comments, such as can be seen in 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell.

Exploration of all these key concepts will have a practical focus, which will allow you to develop your own practical skills at the same time. You will practically explore the techniques of modern theatre companies and apply performance techniques in a range of scripted, devising and improvised performances.

What skills will the study of Drama teach?

As a citizen in this world, you need to know how to work collaboratively with other people, express your personal views, understand your view of others, and communicate clearly. Performing Arts provides a framework for understanding people through the analysis of characters, playwrights and live performance work; as well as the opportunity to work collaboratively to create work that will express your own ideas.

Drama will teach you to...

- Apply physical and vocal skills to communicate a character
- Analyse the effectiveness of your own use of body language and vocal expression
- Express your ideas within a group during collaborative creative tasks
- Develop physical control through the development of performance work
- Speak clearly to an audience of people
- Communicate ideas through the application of drama techniques

How does your study of Performing Arts - Drama support your study in other subjects?

As a creative subject, Performing Arts involves developing problem solving, communication, group working, analytical and expressive skills that are imperative to achieving

success in most other subjects, as well as being life skills that prepare you for your future. Self expression allows you to explore your identity, and this leads to increased self confidence and well-being. These skills also have a clear link with other creative subjects such as Music, Art, and Design.

Studying playwrights and scripts has strong links with English Literature and the curriculum is often designed so that the two subjects can mutually support each other with linked projects. Issue-based work in Performing Arts exposes you to a range of current and historical events that increase your understanding of the world around you, allowing you to develop your understanding of other cultures and points of view.

Exploring genres from across the World allows you to increase your cultural awareness and understand the way in which the arts can be used to influence social and political viewpoints, as well as inspiring change.

How can you deepen your understanding of Performing Arts?

The Performing Arts department offers lots of great opportunities for you to engage with this fabulous subject during Enrichment time. In Year 7 we often engage with other year groups by setting up opportunities for you to view work that has been produced by the older year groups. This experience may include workshops with older learners and opportunities to ask questions about KS4 courses.

Across Years 7 to 9 students engage in work with professional companies and artists that are brought into the academy to deliver workshops and performances. We have recently worked with Frantic Assembly and the National Theatre. Learners across Years 7 to Year 10 also have access to performance Enrichment, which gives the opportunity to participate in the development, rehearsal and performance of material in full scale productions or showcases.

In some cases, the Drama department will collaborate with Music and Expressive Arts to stage musical theatre performances. In the summer of 2023 the Academy production was Oliver and for this year Mary Poppins will be performed. This will give you the opportunity to experience the exhilaration of performing to an audience and has the added benefit of being a great way to build friendships and have fun.

In Year 9 and Year 10, we encourage you to attend live performances and will arrange trips to enable this. We also encourage you to take on lead roles within productions, and develop your skills in directing by running enrichment clubs with staff support, or directing smaller scale productions. Throughout all of the year groups, there is also the opportunity to work 'behind the scenes' by joining the production team as part of the lighting, sound, stage management, hair, make-up or costume crew.

In addition to opportunities within the academy, Outwood Grange Academy Trust also organises Trust wide events for our most passionate performers. These are opportunities to work with other performing arts students from across the Trust on large scale performances with 500+ performers. These events are held at large venues such as the West Yorkshire Playhouse or York Barbican and give the opportunity of performing on a large stage in front of family and friends.

How are you assessed in Performing Arts - Drama?

Throughout the Drama course, you are assessed using the Performing Arts assessment objectives which ensure that you can cumulatively build your subject understanding in preparation for future GCSE and A Level study.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 assessments are based on a combination of practical workshops, creative work, performance and evaluation. Performance work is often recorded to allow the opportunity for you to review your own work and set appropriate targets for progression.

Assessments in KS4 will incorporate written work, which will be assessed against the criteria for the chosen specification. There are regular assessment points each year that we term Praising Stars©. We assess how you are on track to reach your end of stage targets which are formulated on aspirational expectation from your KS2 starting points. We make an informed prediction from our holistic assessments based on our subject mapping of expectation across the Performing Arts curriculum. Assessment work is standardised across the Trust to ensure a strong understanding of the age-related expectations in Performing Arts.

Key Assessment Objectives

The key assessment Objectives for Drama are:

Creative

- Development of devising techniques to enable the creation of meaningful Drama performance work
- Development of dialogue that is appropriate to a role
- Understanding of how to stage text in a way that communicates meaning

Performance

- Performing drama work with skill and accuracy
- Communication of a character using physical vocal expression

- Delivering script in a way that communicates meaning

Evaluation

- Analysis of strengths and areas for improvement in performance work
- Understanding of how skills have been used to enhance the work
- Target setting to enable progress going forward

How can Performing Arts support your future?

We offer GCSE Drama and this provides an excellent opportunity for a wide variety of further education courses and career opportunities both on and backstage. You also get to experience attending a live theatre production, on more than one occasion throughout their GCSE course, which for most enhances the passion for the subject. This course is designed to develop your performance skills through the study of key texts and practitioners. You will also increase your understanding of theatre production through the viewing and analysis of live theatre, and extend your creative abilities through devising tasks. The course prepares you well for the challenges of an A-Level course, which can ultimately lead to degree courses in Drama, Theatre Studies and Theatre Production.

The performing arts industry is a multi-billion pound industry that includes live performance, as well as film, television and events. Students that continue their studies in performing arts can work towards a wide range of careers:

- Actor
- Circus Artist
- Dancer
- Director
- Producer
- Screenwriter
- Stage Manager
- Choreographer
- Set Designer
- Theatre Technician

- Sound Designer
- Lighting Designer
- Stage Crew
- Teacher or Lecturer
- Drama Therapist
- Music Therapist
- Dance or Movement Therapist
- Arts Administrator
- Theatre Front of House
- Marketing

PERFORMING ARTS CURRICULUM PROGRESSION PATHWAY AT OUTWOOD ACADEMY BYDALES

Years 7, 8 & 9	GCSE Year 1	GCSE Year 2
<p><u>Introduction to drama (Exploring Characterisation)</u></p> <p>Introduction to key drama skills with a specific focus on characterization skills and the traditional rules of drama including use of space and relationships.</p> <p>You explore key skills and techniques using fairytales as a starting point, and aim to master the techniques of Still Image, Thought Track and Narration.</p> <p><u>Mime/Silent Movies (Exaggeration and Physicality)</u></p> <p>You will develop skills within the genre of mime, and will respond to music within a performance. You will study famous figures such as</p>	<p>Introduction to the GCSE Drama Course including learning about the grading criteria and requirements of the course.</p> <p>You begin with skill based workshops, aiming to increase your bank of knowledge in relation to Drama Techniques and how to apply them.</p> <p><u>Introduction of Key Practitioners</u></p> <p>You will explore a range of theatre styles and look at a wide range of practitioners including Paper Birds, Punchdrunk and Frantic Assembly.</p>	<p><u>Component 1: Devising Drama</u></p> <p>The exam board will provide an exam paper which has a choice of stimuli and you will be asked to choose one and as a result create an original performance as part of a group.</p> <p>You will submit a comprehensive portfolio, detailing your initial ideas and research as it has developed from page to stage.</p> <p><u>Component 2: Presenting and Performing Texts</u></p>

<p>Charlie Chaplin and the Marx Brothers and enhance your exaggeration and physicality skills.</p> <p><u>Ancient Greek</u></p> <p>You will develop the use of drama techniques, exploring the plot of Macbeth to be able to apply characterisation techniques to themes within the play.</p> <p>You should use your knowledge of devising to explore off-text and incorporate drama techniques such as Narration, Slow Motion and Split Staging.</p> <p><u>Harry Potter</u></p> <p>You will look at and understand the format of a film script and learn to apply physical and vocal techniques to a piece of text.</p> <p><u>Matilda (Drama - Musicals)</u></p> <p>You will learn how to apply physical and vocal techniques to a piece of text. There will be the opportunity to learn and communicate a section of text and to develop skills in performing to an audience. You will also look at performing sections from a song with basic choreography and singing</p> <p><u>Exploring style (Devising)</u></p> <p>You will explore different performance styles in isolated workshop lessons, building an appreciation of the style and obtaining new performance skills. Styles include:</p>	<p>You will understand how these practitioners use their techniques to create an engaging performance for their audiences. This will prepare you for a mock assessment of Component 1 - Devising.</p> <p><u>Devised Theatre</u></p> <p>You will look at a variety of stimuli and focus on creating original work, incorporating drama techniques and performance devices.</p> <p><u>Devising</u></p> <p>You will complete a mock assessment of the Devising unit of the GCSE course.</p> <p>You will be provided with multiple stimuli to choose from and be asked to create an original piece of drama that fits a given brief. You will also create a portfolio of ideas and research to support your performance.</p> <p><u>Text Exploration</u></p> <p>You will complete an in-depth study of the work of a professional playwright, looking at the themes, characters, social context and production elements of the performance. You</p>	<p>You will perform two extracts of a set text either as a solo performer or in a group of up to 6 students.</p> <p>This component is assessed by a visiting examiner and is looking primarily at your performance skills.</p> <p><u>Component 3: Drama: Performance & Response</u></p> <p>Component 3 of the course is a written exam made up of two sections.</p> <p>Section A: you will be asked set questions surrounding the play that you have studied in the 'Text Exploration' section of the course.</p> <p>Section B: This section asks you to analyse/evaluate a performance you have seen as part of the GCSE Drama course. You will also be tested on theatrical knowledge and the use of subject specific terminology.</p>
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- Naturalism
- Abstract (Brecht)
- Immersive Theatre
- TIE
- Pantomime
- Physical Theatre

Blood Brothers (Script)

You will develop your knowledge of the plot, social context, the intentions of Willy Russell, and the musical theatre style. Practical understanding of characterisation and staging of a section of text will be developed.

London Riots(Stage Combat)

Focusing on devising, and using The London Riots as a stimuli, you will understand how to create theatre using real-life events, looking at Paper Bird and Verbatim Theatre. You will also look at Stage Combat, and how to apply movement to a performance to enhance the mood/impact.

DNA (Off-text Improvisation & Exploration of Style)

Knowledge of the plot and themes of the play 'DNA' written by Dennis Kelly will be used as a starting point to devise work in both the naturalistic and abstract styles.

You will explore the power status of each of the characters, through performance of extracts and devised performances.

will be given the opportunity to see a live/ pre-recorded copy of this production.

This study will continue in Year 10 to prepare you for the GCSE written Paper.

Presenting & Performing - Mock Exam

You will study a text, and perform two extracts from that text either as a solo performance or in groups. You will complete a mock performance to assess your practical skills, in preparation for the real exam to be completed in Year 10.

You will also look in-depth at a live theatre production, different to the one explored in Text Exploration. You will analyse and evaluate the performance's technical elements, for example the use of lighting, costume and staging.

The focus of Year 9 is to ensure that you are prepared for the demands of the GCSE course. You will learn about key practitioners, styles and genres and you will be provided with the opportunity to experiment and explore styles. You will discover your own strengths in performance, directing and devising and continue to learn that positive working relationships when working collaboratively is key to successful learning outcomes.

Units of work are:

- Introduction to Theatre Practitioners
- Brecht's 'Epic Theatre'
- Stanislavski- Naturalism
- Monologue Assessment
- Frantic Assembly- Physical Theatre
- Scripted

