



Why is the study of Drama important?

There are many reasons why the study of Drama is important, these include -

- Self-Confidence - Drama encourages students to think outside the box and be more confident, going into unfamiliar situations. Students learn to trust their ideas and abilities.
- Cooperation - Students learn to work as an ensemble. Combining the creative ideas and the abilities of all participants for the best outcomes. This requires all those taking part to engage in discussions, feedback, rehearsing, and the performance.
- Empathy - Understanding characters, roles and the subtext of plays and musicals allows students to relate better to different situations, backgrounds, and cultures. It encourages them to show compassion and tolerance for others.
- Imagination - Being creative and learning to make creative choices helps students to be better at thinking of new ideas, allowing them to view the world around them in new ways. Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge."
- Communication Skills - Drama improves vocal projection, articulation, tone of speech and expression. Importantly, it also develops listening and observation skills.
- Memory - Rehearsing and performing lines and movements will improve memory. Your memory requires exercise, just like a muscle.
- Concentration - Playing, practicing, and performing will develop the ability and skills to be able to focus the mind, the body, and the voice.
- Emotional Outlet - Drama allows students to express a range of emotions and develops empathy. Aggression and tension are released in a safe, controlled environment – often allowing for a period of reflection afterwards.
- Physical Fitness - Performing, even the most passive performances, requires intensive movement over a prolonged period. Many performing arts exercises improve flexibility, coordination, balance, and control.
- Fun - Drama brings elements of play, humour, and laughter to those taking part – improves motivation and reduces stress, it can bring joy into your life.

What skills will the study of Drama teach you?

GCSE Drama will teach and equip you with the skills to apply your knowledge and understanding of drama when making, performing and responding to drama. You will be able to explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created. You will be challenged to work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas. You will develop as a creative, effective, independent and reflective individual able to make informed choices in process and performance. You will learn how to contribute as an individual to a theatrical performance, reflecting on and evaluating your own work and that of others.

What will you know and understand from your study of Drama?

Although this is a very practical course it is designed to ask you deep and complex questions about the world around you. Throughout the course you will be expected to think about situations and issues and explore them through practical drama and through written documentary evidence. There will be the study of professional theatre, theatre practitioners and their performance styles and the expectation that you will perform to live audiences with confidence and professionalism. You will develop an understanding of the many elements of theatre including the study conventions, structural devices, characterisation and semiotics of theatre.

How can you deepen your understanding of Drama?

GCSE Drama offers many additional opportunities, it is an essential element that students watch live theatre, this will include the professional work of theatre companies that you will study in lessons. There is the opportunity to attend theatre performance and workshops with professionals in London, enriching your experiences and development of skills. We also try to provide the experience of working with professional theatre companies by giving you the opportunity to take part in their educational workshops and programmes. Outside of lesson enrichment sessions are offered to explore your skills and knowledge and we maintain strong links across the key stages bringing performances together between GCSE and A Level student classes.

How are you assessed in Drama?

There are 6 assessment points each year that we term Praising Stars®. We assess how students at their current stage of study are on track to reach their end of stage targets which are formulated on aspirational expectation from their KS2 starting points. We make an informed prediction from our holistic assessments based on our subject mapping of expectation across the GCSE Drama curriculum.

The course is divided into three units of study and you will be assessed in these areas over both years

Unit 1: Devising drama - you are given a selection stimuli to create a response to. Working in groups you will devise and develop work in role as a performer or designer.

Unit 2: Presenting and performing Text - you will explore a script and then perform two extracts within the given style or context. You will have to consider costume, lighting and sound to bring the play to life.

Unit 3: Performance and Response Exam - you will practically explore and attend a live performance of a set text. You will then sit a written exam based on your learning.

Key Assessment Objectives

AO1 - Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance.

AO2 - Apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance.

AO3 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed.

AO4 - Analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others.

Study of Drama can lead to a wide range of careers:

A GCSE in Drama shows an employer that a student has confidence, good communication skills and an ability to work independently. It is an excellent subject to take in order to show diversity of interest and creativity. Drama graduates are statistically proven to be those who found employment the easiest after leaving university. This qualification also assists all students pursuing a career working with people, sales, marketing, journalism, media, law, and of course all jobs in performance or theatre/television/film production.

OCR Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Drama Course Overview

| Term | Year 1 | Year 2 |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Autumn 1 | Study of Key theatre Practitioners, including LeCoq, Stanislaski,Boal,Brecht and Artaud. | Stimuli Paper for final assessment - exploration of set stimulus from the examination board. Students then work in small groups to devise and develop drama performance for assessment. The completion of the written coursework element is embedded in this unit of study. |
| Autumn 2 | Exploration of professional theatre companies, exploring and adopting their performance style. Creation of a devised piece to evidence learning. | Stimuli Paper for final assessment - exploration of set stimulus from the examination board. Students then work in small groups to devise and develop drama performance for assessment. The completion of the written coursework element is embedded in this unit of study. |
| Spring 1 | Devising skills - exploration of areas of study and devising techniques. Students may revisit the work of practitioners from previous terms. | Script study – students explore a script and fully realise two extracts for assessed performance. Alongside this they complete a two page pro-forma document for assessment. |
| Spring 2 | Stimuli Paper - application of devising study in creation of a performance piece for assessment. Alongside this students complete the supporting written coursework. | Script study – students explore a script and fully realise two extracts for assessed performance. Alongside this they complete a two page pro-forma document for assessment. This unit is performed live to a visiting examiner in Spring term 2. |
| Summer 1 | Script study 'Blood Brothers' – students explore a script and fully realise for performance working as a class ensemble. | Written Exam Unit – Study and revision of Blood Brothers text and live performance work for the written exam. |
| Summer 2 | Script study 'Blood Brothers' – students explore a script and fully realise for performance working as a class ensemble. | Written Exam Unit – Study and revision of Blood Brothers text and live performance work for the written exam. Course complete |

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