

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

“I love acting. It is so much more real than life.” Oscar Wilde

Current Teaching Staff:

Mr P Lyden - Head of Department
Miss L Deller

Examination board and syllabus: AQA

Entrance requirement: At least a Grade 6 in GCSE Drama. However, students will be considered on an individual basis if they did not study Drama at GCSE level. At least a Grade 6 in both English Literature and Language GCSE.

A level Drama:

Component 1: Drama and theatre

What's Assessed: Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre; Study of two set plays (one chosen from list A, one from list B); Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.

Written Examination: 3 hours

40% of A level

Section A: one question (from a choice) on Jerusalem by Jez Butterworth. (25 marks)

Section B: one three part question on a given extract from Metamorphosis by Steven Berkoff. (30 marks)

Section C: one question (from a choice) relating to a live theatre performance. (25 marks)

Component 2: Creating original drama

What's Assessed: Process of creating devised drama; Performance of a devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director). Devised piece influenced by the work of methodologies of Antonin Artaud/Theatre of Cruelty.

30% of A level

Working notebook (40 marks)

Devised Performance (20 marks)

Component 3: Making Theatre

What's Assessed: Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts, each taken from a different play; Methodology of a prescribed practitioner (must be applied to extract 3); Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director); Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts. Recent examples include 4.48 Psychosis by Sarah Kane, The Wonderful World of Dissocia by Anthony Neilson and The Bald Soprano by Ionesco.

30% of A level

Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks)

Reflective report (20 marks)

Lessons are taught in two fully equipped Drama studios, and tend to be practically based. Set texts are studied from a performance perspective. Lessons tend to start with practical warm up activities. There is an emphasis placed on developing practical skills to a high level. Students tend to work in small groups, developing a given stimulus for performance within class.

There is an annual trip to London in the Autumn Term. In recent years this has included shows such as War Horse, Blood Brothers, and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time.

Students need to show real commitment and enthusiasm to all aspects of the course. Although the lessons are primarily practical, it is essential that students carry out individual research to help inform their understanding of complex theatrical theories.

We are now also able to offer students the opportunity to study for an AS in Drama in Year 12 should they wish to. This is entirely based upon an Externally Set Task (EST) that is available from January each year. Please see course outline below. More details on this option can be given to those interested by directly coming and speaking to the HOD (Mr Lyden) at Open Evenings or, for those in TGGs already, in lessons.

CAREERS

Acting for stage and screen,
Multimedia related jobs,
Theatre in education,
Advertising, Journalism.