

DRAMA

GCSE Drama aims to engage and encourage students to become confident **performers** and **designers** with the skills needed for a bright and successful future.

The course offers pupils the opportunity to explore drama as a practical art form as well as through theoretical study, where ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through choices of form, style and convention. Pupils will learn about key practitioners, theoretical influences and influential playwrights whilst developing and building their core practical performance and design skills as well as increasing self-confidence, sensitivity and self-expression. Many students choose Drama because of the active style of learning, as the emphasis on practical work in a Drama Studio environment provides a positive balance with written demands of the course.

COURSE CONTENT

The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components:

1. **Understanding Drama (written exam)**
2. **Devising Drama (practical plus coursework portfolio)**
3. **Texts in Practice (practical)**

In the practical components students may specialise in performing, lighting, sound, set or costume. Whilst there is a written emphasis on the practical element in this course, the building up of a lively portfolio full of inspiration and ideas, collaboration and experimentation and finally written evaluation, is also a central part of the course. Thus GCSE Drama allows all students to pursue the course in a way consistent with their preferred creative style.

As part of the learning process, Year 10 Drama groups participate in either the Shakespeare Schools Festival or a Theatre Company residency, where they produce a performance for a public audience at a professional theatre. We work with professional actors or directors in workshops designed to enhance the GCSE Drama skills.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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ASSESSMENT: AQA (8201)

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

Component 1: Written Exam (40%)

Component 1 consists of the written paper – an open book exam of 1¼ hours

Section A: multiple choice questions on knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre (4 marks)

Section B: four questions on a given extract from the set play (chosen from a choice of six) (44 marks)

Section C: one two part question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (32 marks)

Component 2 Devised Performance Work

Component 2 (40%) consists of creating and performing devised drama (students may choose to contribute as performer or designer). Students will analyse and evaluate their own work with the creation and development of a coursework portfolio (devising log).

Component 3 Scripted Performance (20%) consists of a performance of two extracts from one play (this text must be a contrast to the play examined in the written exam). Students may choose both the text and also may contribute as performer or designer.