

Drama & Theatre

at MSJ Sixth Form



A Drama and Theatre pupil should have a passion for creativity. You should be self-motivated, able to work alone and in a group and have the ability to take a practical, as well as theoretical, approach to academic issues.

You should enjoy drama and the theatre and be excited about the 'hands on' style of learning. Drama and Theatre offers the prospect of learning specifically about the skills and theories unique to the subject. It will teach you about plays, practitioners, playwrights, design, genres, dramatic form and style. In addition, it develops highly sought after transferable skills, including an excellent ability to communicate on a small or large scale, lead a group, and it helps to develop self-confidence and charisma.

TO PURSUE THE A LEVEL COURSE SUCCESSFULLY, PUPILS IDEALLY NEED A MINIMUM OF:

Interest and/or experience in the performing arts

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course requires you to deepen your understanding of Drama and Theatre through the practical study of several published/performed plays. You must learn about Theatre Practitioners in conjunction with the plays you study. Your work must take a practical and academic approach. You must perform extracts from plays, communicating meaning as part of the theatre making process, and have the ability to analyse and evaluate your work. You need to work with others in your group, although you are marked individually.

IS IT THE RIGHT COURSE FOR ME?

What skills will I need?

The key progression skills required by the course are creative, practical, devising and self-reflection skills. Acting, designing, group working, motivational, analysis and evaluative skills will all help you to do well.

WITH WHICH OTHER SUBJECTS DOES IT WORK BEST?

Drama naturally works well alongside English, Classics, Languages, the Arts and the Humanities. However, with the flexibility of being able to study both AS and A2, it can also complement subjects in areas which you might not expect, such as the Sciences.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS?

In 2022 approximately 1 in 8 UK businesses are in Creative Industries, providing 2.29 million jobs and accounting for 6.9% of all UK jobs. In 2018 Creative Industries jobs grew by 1.6%, compared with the UK wide employment increase of 0.8%.

There are career opportunities in television, film, theatre, advertising, writing, marketing, public relations, event management, charities, teaching, therapy and many more. The transferable skills Drama & Theatre Studies offers makes it ideal for a very wide range of careers. Past students have gone on to directing at RADA, study English at Oxford and into practising Medicine.

HEAD OF SUBJECT

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EXAM BOARD

AQA

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

60% non-exam assessment - performance with written evaluative response. You will perform plays and key extracts as well as devising your own performance work. You can work on acting skills or, for some of the work, offer design skills.

40% written exam – consisting of the review of a live theatre production and the analysis and evaluation of plays you have studied through your practical lessons.