



DRAMA AND THEATRE

A-LEVEL

WHY SHOULD I STUDY A-LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE?

The course is varied and interesting. You will have the opportunity to develop practical performance skills and acting techniques and you will learn how to analyse play texts, interpret characters, explore themes and ideas, and understand the historical and cultural contexts. You will gain a practical understanding of the theatre production process, including lighting, sound, and costume design and you will create your own original theatre work to be presented to an audience. Alongside practical work, you will also engage in written assignments that require analysis, reflection, and evaluation of your own work and the work of others. You will be encouraged to attend live theatre performances and critically evaluate them allowing you to articulate your ideas and develop your written communication skills. You will be taught by subject specialist teaching staff and visiting directors, actors and designers from the industry will lead workshops with pupils.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

You will explore the work of influential theatre practitioners such as Littlewood, Brecht, Artaud, and practitioners associated with devising theatre such as Gecko, KneeHigh and Frantic Assembly. This will provide you with a broader understanding of different approaches to collaborative theatre making to inform your own devising process. You will explore two set texts in depth, 'Woyzeck' by Georg Buchner and 'That Face' by Polly Stenham and you will study 3 more plays which are chosen by the teacher each year to reflect current trends and issues and to suit the interests and skills of the students in the class. You will develop rehearsal and performance techniques and create production proposals which will include detailed ideas for technical aspects such as set, lighting and sound design. You will learn to develop ideas and reasoned arguments in relation to theatre productions you have seen, you will critically engage with statements such as 'acting is more important than design in theatre' or 'theatre today has nothing to say to young people'. Your lessons will range from practical rehearsals to discussion and debate to theory and essay writing.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

40% is based on the devising project which involves creating a unique and original performance for an audience and completing an audio or written portfolio to document the process. 20% is based on a theatrical production in the second year of the course and pupils may choose to be actors or designers. This is graded by a visiting examiner who watches the performance. 40% is the written exam at the end of the course. Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation. Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text (That Face). Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text (Woyzeck).

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

This course encourages learners to develop their skills in performing, devising and researching a wide range of theatrical styles and genres. They learn to communicate with an audience through practical and creative work on performance texts and their own devised material, both as individuals and in groups. They learn to research, analyse, create and interpret, and to become skilled, well-informed and reflective theatrical practitioners.

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

Studying Drama and Theatre can open doors to various career paths. Besides pursuing acting or directing or designing, you can explore professions in areas such as playwriting, stage management, arts administration, teaching, or even using your transferable skills in fields like communication, marketing, or public relations. The A-Level course develops many transferable skills that compliment careers in all industries. By performing in front of an audience, you'll learn to overcome stage fright, develop resilience, and gain a sense of accomplishment. Theatre is a collaborative art form that requires teamwork and cooperation. Working with a diverse group of actors, directors, designers, and technicians teaches you how to communicate, compromise, and collectively create something meaningful. These skills are essential in many professional settings. Theatre provides a platform for exploring different cultures, historical periods, and social issues. Through studying plays from various time periods and cultures, you can gain a deeper understanding of society, history, and human experiences. Theatre encourages empathy and emotional intelligence by immersing you in the lives and emotions of diverse characters. It helps you develop an understanding of different perspectives, motivations, and emotions, which can foster compassion and empathy in your personal and professional relationships.

