



DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

This course encourages candidates to develop their interest in and enjoyment of drama and theatre, both through experience as audience members and through their personal development of dramatic and theatrical skills. Students will expand and deepen their knowledge and understanding of the social and cultural contents of drama and theatre, through detailed study of dramatic texts, and through the work of prescribed theatre practitioners. The courses will develop candidates' ability to respond critically and sensitively to a range of drama texts and to theatre in performance, through studying and attending theatrical performances. The two units of practical drama ensure that students' own skills, ranging from directing and acting to designing, are developed and valued.

Drama students will be encouraged to participate in school productions as designers, backstage crew, directors and actors. It is recommended that candidates should have developed a level of practical and critical awareness of drama and theatre equivalent to GCSE, but attainment in GCSE Drama and Theatre Arts is NOT a requirement.

Essay skills are needed in equal measure with a willingness to acquire practical skills. Perhaps most important is a willingness to "have a go". Complementary courses of study are English Literature, Politics, Psychology, History, Art and Music, though the broad base of the subject makes it a good choice for those pursuing Science subjects.

We also offer an Expressive Arts trip to New York every two years. In a packed 6 days students see two Broadway shows and participate in three specifically tailored drama workshops as well as experiencing many of the cultural opportunities the city has to offer.

THE COURSE

This two year, linear course comprises:

Component 1: Drama and Theatre

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre.
- Study of two set plays.
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.

Assessed via external 3 hour examination (40% A-level)

Component 2: Creating Original Drama (practical)

- Process of creating devised drama.
- Performance of devised drama.

Internal assessment (30% A-level), moderated by AQA

Component 3: Making Theatre (practical)

- Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts, each taken from a different play.
- Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts.

Performance of Extract 3 with reflective report – all assessed by AQA (30% A-level)

CAREERS

This course provides opportunities for progression to courses in higher education in the subject area of drama and theatre studies or in other subjects as an entry qualification.

Generally, students find it an asset in careers where public relations matter because it encourages sensitivity to others as well as creating teamwork.

Acting, Stage Management and Design are careers which lead directly from this subject as well as many of the multiple job opportunities on offer in the media from Studio Production to the Arts Council and Theatre Management to film work. Additionally Social Work, Management, Consultancy, Law and Teaching are examples of careers which would utilise the skills which these courses offer.