

GCSE Drama

GCSE Drama is an exciting course which allows you to develop your understanding of theatre from both an acting and design perspective. It will allow you to use skills gained in other subjects such as English Literature to analyse texts, along with allowing you to develop skills in devising and communicating on stage from different stimulus. Additionally, you will have the option to look at the design elements, using skills already developed in Art to consider different approaches to set and/or costume.

GCSE Drama is an engaging course which is accessible to all. Upon completion of the course you will have gained a wealth of transferable skills; such as team work, communication and presentation skills, which will assist you in your future career even if this is not in the world of theatre. The course will also give pupils the opportunity to explore and discover theatre through theatre trips and experiences of performance in order to truly appreciate the joy and spectacle of drama on stage.

60% Practical assessment. 40% written exam.

The course is broken down into 3 components:

Component 1 – Devising Theatre

40% of your GCSE

This component requires you to create your own play (of between 5-16 minutes) based on stimulus material provided by the exam board. You will normally have a choice of a song, image, quotation or a concept/statement outlined by the exam board.

There are three main parts to this element:

- Devising (planning, researching, developing ideas)
- Realising (actually creating your piece)
- Evaluating (a written evaluation of your performance)

You can ACT or DESIGN for this component.

Design elements consist of:

Lighting design

Sound design

Set design (and props)

Costume, hair and make-up design

Component 2 – Performing from a text

20% of your GCSE

You will study and perform two extracts from one play in one performance.

You will decide which text to perform from with guidance from your teacher.

You must interact with the audience/performers for at least 5 minutes.

This performance will be assessed by an examiner who will visit school for the day.

Component 3 – Interpreting theatre

40% of your GCSE

Written exam for 1 ½ hours
There are two sections to this exam.

Section A – you study a set text (a play chosen by the teacher) and consider how it has been constructed and could be performed on stage.

Section B - you review a piece of live theatre that you have viewed during the course and answer questions on how it has been staged.

Further Study and Higher Education

This course will allow students to access A Level Drama, Theatre Studies or BTEC L3 Performing Arts qualifications.

Career Opportunities

Creative Jobs – Actor / Dancer / Musical Theatre Performer / Choreographer / Costume or Set Designer/ Musical Director / Playwright / Sound Designer / Lighting Technician

Management – Box Office / Education Officer / Front of House Manager / Marketing and PR

Any career requiring communication, collaboration and presentation skills, for example Teacher, Carer, Sales and Marketing.