



Curriculum Overview 2025-2026

Subject: Drama

Year Group/Cohort: KS4

	Knowledge and Understanding	Knowledge and Understanding	Skills	Skills	Assessment	Subject specific literacy	Cross curricular links
	Components (Key concepts)	Composite (Bigger picture)	Components (Key concepts)	Composite (Bigger picture)	What is being assessed, how, and when?	Key Vocabulary	Including Personal Development and SMSC
Autumn Term 1	<p>Advanced Elements of Drama: Deepening understanding of plot structure, character development, setting, dialogue, movement, and gesture.</p> <p>Mastering essential and advanced terms used in drama.</p>	<p><u>Introduction to Drama</u></p> <p><u>Fundamental Skills & Styles</u></p>	<p>Developing advanced acting skills including voice modulation, emotional range, and physicality.</p> <p>Enhancing teamwork and communication skills by working in groups on complex scenes or improvisations.</p> <p>Engaging in complex improvisational activities to enhance creativity and quick thinking.</p>	<p>Using a range of advanced dramatic conventions to convey meaning.</p> <p>Familiarization with essential and advanced terms used in drama.</p> <p>Giving and receiving structured and impactful feedback.</p> <p>Building self-confidence and stage presence through regular performance practice and feedback.</p>	<p>Unit Award Scheme <i>*Students will only be enrolled in units where their work meets criteria standards.</i></p> <p>Understanding Drama Techniques (Unit Code: 114925)</p> <p>Developing Performance Skills (Unit Code: 114922)</p> <p>Exploring Improvisation (Unit Code: 114926)</p>	<p>Focus, Conventions, Imagination, Theme, Exploration, Control, Improvisation, Concentration, Still image, Hot seating, Body language, Facial expression, Voice, Pace, Accent, Tone, Actor, script, stage, dialogue, monologue, improvisation, role-play, scene, cue.</p>	<p><u>ENGLISH</u></p> <p><u>READING</u></p> <p><u>SOCIAL SKILLS</u></p> <p><u>ELSA</u></p> <p><u>CAREERS</u></p>

	<p>Understanding how special effects makeup is applied and developed for dramatic effect.</p> <p>Understanding what immersive theatre is and how it differs from traditional theatre.</p> <p>Furthering skills and knowledge of special effects makeup and application.</p>	<p><u>Immersive Theatre (Murder Mystery)</u></p> <p><u>SFX Makeup: Applying Prosthetics</u></p>	<p>Exploring the principles of immersive theatre and how it transforms the traditional theatre experience.</p> <p>Learning sophisticated techniques for engaging and interacting with the audience.</p> <p>Understanding techniques and application of special effects using makeup to enhance the theatrical experience.</p>	<p>Creating and sustaining complex characters in an immersive setting.</p> <p>Design and implement intricate special effects makeup using prosthetics.</p> <p>Addressing and resolving technical challenges in real-time with creative solutions.</p>	<p>Exploring Special Effects In Drama (Unit Code: 117121)</p> <p>Basic Immersive Theatre Techniques (Unit Code: 117102)</p> <p>Other Unit Awards bespoke to students work: <i>-Students will complete a personal log of activities/work to be submitted as evidence.</i></p>	<p>Immersive theatre, special effects, atmosphere, tension, soundscape, lighting, props, set design.</p>	<p>SMSC</p> <p>HISTORY</p> <p>ART</p> <p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT</p>
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Autumn Term 2	<p>Learning about the importance of costumes, sets and props in theatre.</p> <p>Enhancing our knowledge of key elements of a 'creative brief'.</p> <p>Using literary devices in writing to be able to review a live performance with style.</p>	<p><u>Design Project:</u> <u>Costume, Set, Props</u></p> <p><u>Writing A Review</u></p>	<p>Identifying the representation of set/scenery, props and costume.</p> <p>Understanding the elements and layouts of writing a review on a live performance independently.</p> <p>Be able to acknowledge different writing styles.</p>	<p>Understanding the importance of lighting, sound, and props to create dramatic effects.</p> <p>Produce and create our own set/scenery elements within a creative brief.</p> <p>Review a live performance of any media.</p>	<p><u>Unit Award Scheme</u> <i>*Students will only be enrolled in units where their work meets criteria standards.</i></p> <p>Theatre Set Design & Scenic Painting (Unit Code: 116788)</p> <p>Art & Design: Masks & Theatre (Unit Code: 13808)</p> <p><u>Other Unit Awards</u> bespoke to students work: <i>-Students will complete a personal log of activities/work to be submitted as evidence.</i></p>	<p>Skill Technique Palette Mood board, Genre Era Style Effect Analysis Opinion Formal Informal Media Blog Vlog</p>	<p><u>ENGLISH</u></p> <p><u>READING</u></p> <p><u>SOCIAL SKILLS</u></p> <p><u>ELSA</u></p> <p><u>CAREERS</u></p> <p><u>ART</u></p>
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Spring Term 1	<p>Deeply analyzing the social, political, and ethical issues addressed in modern Britain through different media..</p> <p>Studying key playwrights who focus on issue-based drama and understanding the historical context of their works.</p> <p>Exploring advanced techniques used to convey themes and messages.</p>	<p><u>Devising</u></p> <p><u>Script Writing</u></p>	<p>Using advanced performance techniques eg. Voice, body language and facial expression.</p> <p>Staging and performing scenes that highlight specific issues and provoke thought and discussion.</p>	<p>Analyzing and interpreting complex themes and messages in plays.</p> <p>Understand about key playwrights who focus on issue-based drama and the historical context of their works.</p> <p>Developing empathy and understanding through detailed role-play and character exploration.</p> <p>Engaging in sophisticated discussions and debates on the issues presented in plays.</p>	<p><u>Unit Award Scheme</u> <i>*Students will only be enrolled in units where their work meets criteria standards.</i></p> <p>Exploring Themes in Drama (Unit Code: 117123):</p> <p>Role-Playing Social Issues (Unit Code: 117124):</p> <p>Performing Scenes with Social Messages (Unit Code: 117125):</p>	<p>Issue</p> <p>Theme Exploration</p> <p>Characterisation Hotseating</p> <p>Thought Tunnel</p> <p>Reflect Monologue</p> <p>Thought Tracking</p>	<p><u>ENGLISH</u></p> <p><u>READING</u></p> <p><u>SOCIAL SKILLS</u></p> <p><u>ELSA</u></p> <p><u>CITIZENSHIP</u></p> <p><u>PSHE</u></p>
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<p>Spring Term 2</p>	<p>Deepening knowledge about William Shakespeare's life, works, and the Elizabethan era.</p> <p>Detailed study of key Shakespearean plays, their plots, characters, and themes.</p> <p>Mastering Shakespearean language, including iambic pentameter, rhetorical devices, and literary techniques.</p>	<p><u>The Shakespeareance. & Classical Text</u></p> <p><u>Text Analysis and History</u></p>	<p>Memorizing and reciting famous monologues and scenes.</p> <p>Conducting in-depth analysis of Shakespearean texts for themes, characters, and literary devices.</p> <p>Developing advanced techniques for performing Shakespeare, including voice modulation, physicality, and interpretation.</p>	<p>Memorizing and performing famous monologues and scenes with understanding and emotion.</p> <p>Exploring various interpretations and adaptations of Shakespeare's works.</p>	<p><u>Unit Award Scheme</u> <i>*Students will only be enrolled in units where their work meets criteria standards.</i></p> <p>Understanding Shakespearean Language (Unit Code: 119460)</p> <p>Performing Shakespeare (Unit Code: 119461)</p> <p>Analyzing Shakespearean Texts (Unit Code: 119462)</p>	<p>iambic pentameter, soliloquy, monologue, Elizabethan theatre, tragic hero, comedy, tragedy, history play.</p>	<p><u>ENGLISH</u></p> <p><u>READING</u></p> <p><u>HUMANITIES</u></p> <p><u>SOCIAL SKILLS</u></p> <p><u>ELSA</u></p> <p><u>PSHE</u></p>
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Summer Term 1	<p>Deepening understanding how improvisation is a transferable skill.</p> <p>Being able to provide evidence of independent research of comedic styles.</p> <p>Identify and acknowledge different styles of comedy through audience participation and stand-up comedians writing.</p>	<p><u>Improvisation: Comedy & Stand-Up</u></p>	<p>Using stimulus and improvisation skills to host an audience.</p> <p>Engaging in role-plays to explore different comedic techniques.</p> <p>Applying research and performance skill to create a stand-up set.</p> <p>Using improvisation through exercises in pairs or group setting.</p>	<p>Participating in in-depth discussions and reflections on personal experiences and topical issues.</p> <p>Creating and performing comedic writing for a small audience.</p> <p>Enhancing improvisation skills to create a piece of work.</p> <p>Practicing and perfecting advanced slapstick and physical comedy techniques.</p>	<p><u>Unit Award Scheme</u> <i>*Students will only be enrolled in units where their work meets criteria standards.</i></p> <p>Exploring Improvisation In Drama (Unit Code: 114902)</p> <p><u>Other Unit Awards bespoke to students work:</u> <i>-Students will complete a personal log of activities/work to be submitted as evidence.</i></p>	<p>Improvisation, style, technique, host, representation, highlights, edit, layer, participation, monologue, performance, solo, exercise, opinion, culture, background, theme, genre, influence.</p>	<p><u>ENGLISH</u></p> <p><u>READING</u></p> <p><u>SOCIAL SKILLS</u></p> <p><u>ELSA</u></p> <p><u>PSHE</u></p> <p><u>CITIZENSHIP</u></p>
Summer Term 2	<p>Understanding the importance of collaboration and teamwork</p> <p>Learning about the different roles in a production, including actors, directors, and technicians.</p> <p>Understanding the stages of preparation before pitching an idea.</p>	<p><u>Project Film & TV</u></p>	<p>Working effectively as part of a team to create a cohesive and professional pitch.</p> <p>Developing a deep and nuanced understanding of the production process.</p> <p>Mastering the technical aspects of a performance, including lighting, sound, and stage management.</p>	<p>Developing leadership and organizational skills through production roles.</p> <p>Understanding and applying advanced technical aspects of theatre production.</p>	<p><u>Unit Award Scheme</u> <i>*Students will only be enrolled in units where their work meets criteria standards.</i></p> <p>Collaborative Performance (Unit Code: 117130)</p> <p>Developing Character in a Group Setting (Unit Code: 117131)</p> <p>Technical Aspects of Group Performances (Unit Code: 117132)</p>	<p>Rehearse Staging Extract Stage directions Marking out Upstage Downstage Stage left Stage right Off text rehearsal Proxemics Subtext</p>	<p><u>ENGLISH</u></p> <p><u>READING</u></p> <p><u>SOCIAL SKILLS</u></p> <p><u>ELSA</u></p> <p><u>CITIZENSHIP</u></p> <p><u>ART</u></p> <p><u>HISTORY</u></p>

							<u>PSHE</u> communication.
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Subject Information including exam board details:

Rationale – The Key Stage 4 Drama curriculum is designed to deepen students' understanding and appreciation of the performing arts while honing advanced skills in communication, creativity, and critical thinking. The curriculum provides opportunities for more sophisticated exploration of dramatic techniques and texts, fostering analytical skills and artistic expression. It enhances students' ability to articulate complex ideas and emotions, both verbally and non-verbally, through in-depth study and performance. By engaging in collaborative projects, students develop leadership and teamwork abilities, essential for their future academic and professional endeavours. The curriculum also emphasizes cultural literacy, exposing students to a wide range of theatrical traditions and contemporary practices, which broadens their perspectives and enriches their understanding of the world. Overall, KS4 Drama is instrumental in shaping well-rounded individuals equipped with the skills and knowledge to navigate and contribute to a dynamic and diverse society.

Careers linked to this subject area:

- Actor/Actress: Linked Subjects - Performing Arts, English, Media Studies
- Director (Theatre, Film, Television): Linked Subjects - Media Studies, English, Performing Arts
- Playwright/Screenwriter: Linked Subjects - English, Creative Writing, Literature
- Drama Teacher: Linked Subjects - Education, Performing Arts, English
- Stage Manager: Linked Subjects - Theatre Production, Performing Arts, Business Studies
- Set Designer: Linked Subjects - Art and Design, Theatre Production, Architecture
- Costume Designer: Linked Subjects - Textiles, Art and Design, Theatre Production
- Lighting Technician: Linked Subjects - Physics, Theatre Production, Media Studies
- Sound Technician: Linked Subjects - Music Technology, Physics, Media Studies
- Drama therapist: Linked Subjects - Psychology, Health and Social Care, Performing Arts
- Producer (Theatre, Film, Television): Linked Subjects - Business Studies, Media Studies, Performing Arts
- Choreographer: Linked Subjects - Dance, Physical Education, Performing Arts
- Casting Director: Linked Subjects - Media Studies, Performing Arts, Business Studies
- Talent Agent: Linked Subjects - Business Studies, Performing Arts, Law
- Arts Administrator: Linked Subjects - Business Studies, Performing Arts, Public Relations
- Film/Television Critic: Linked Subjects - Journalism, English, Media Studies

Enrichment Opportunities: Theatre trips to local theatres, visiting artist workshops/speakers, careers events within industry eg. BBC Media city, Liverpool theatres.