

Welcome to the Drama Department

Our Aims

We endeavour to build students confidence and interpersonal skills through fun and engaging practical lessons. Students are encouraged to be reflective and independent learners who are willing to take risks and seize opportunities to be creative and imaginative. We inspire students to reach beyond their potential both through classroom learning and through extra-curricular activities.

Department Information

The Drama department currently consists of three members of teaching staff (one part time) and a dedicated Performing Arts Technician. We have a purpose built Theatre with a modern lighting rig and sound system in which lessons are taught and various school performances take place. We also have a dedicated rehearsal and dance studio for teaching.

We have wide array of resources set, props and costumes. These teaching resources are used to enhance teaching and learning across all key stages. Students benefit from the numerous extra-curricular activities available; these range from lunch clubs and after school support to various school Musicals and Plays that run all year round and that are open to all year groups.

Department Staffing

Beccy Paris- Head of Drama & Performing Arts

Beccy.paris@northoxfordshire-academy.org

Richard Moreby- Drama Teacher/Leader of Teaching and Learning Team

Richard.moreby@northoxfordshire-academy.org

Elizabeth Reeves- Drama Teacher

Liz.reeves@northoxfordshire-academy.org

Ali Vale- Performing Arts Technician

Alison.vale@northoxfordshire-academy.org

Drama Key Stage 3

Key Stage 3 – Drama

All students in year 7 and 8 study Drama once a week in their tutor groups and lessons are delivered by specialist Drama teachers. Lessons are mainly practical in their delivery and students are taught key Drama skills and techniques which help to develop their performance skills as well key personal and social skills. There is also an element of written and theory work within lessons which helps to deepen their practical application of the subject.

Over the two years, students study a range of different topics that are either Drama specific or linked to areas of the Heritage strand where units are developed alongside other subjects such as Humanities, English, Music and Art. There is no set National Curriculum for Drama, however we have a very strong assessment and grading procedure in place to track students' progress and attainment throughout key stage 3.

In year 9 students can option to take a taster in course in Drama and Media. Over the year, students will have a half term of Drama where they will further their practical and theory skills and knowledge from year 7 and 8. They will also have a half term of Media where they will learn all the key skills and knowledge needed to use Media equipment and software. Students are then set a project in which they have to create their own horror film trailer applying the skills for both subjects. Students then pitch their ideas in a Dragons Den style setting at the end to demonstrate the learning over the course in both subject areas.

Key Stage 3 Programme of Study (Timeline)

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6

7	Introduction to Drama Focus on Drama skills and techniques	Pantomime Focus on the stock characters/characteristics of Pantomime. Pantomime trip to Oxford	The Evacuation Focus on character development; skills and techniques to develop character	An Inspector Calls Focus on how to perform a script and how to convey meaning	MacBeth Exploration of themes and plot of MacBeth	Darkwood Manor Focus on how to create atmosphere and tension and how to produce a serious piece of performance
8	Industrial Revolution Focus on the issues raised during this time through the use of Oliver Twist. (Linked to History)	Oedipus Exploration of Greek Theatre and techniques used in Greek Theatre using the script Oedipus	Character Development Using Stanislavski theories and techniques look at how to develop effective and full rounded characters	Exploitation – This will be linked to study in History and English	Commedia De'Il Arte and Masks Exploration of Commedia and Mask techniques	Independent Project – The Magic of Scripts How to write a script (students will also write script in English) - based on the Holocaust

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Show My Homework and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource.

Students at Key Stage 3 are set regular homework that reflects the teaching and learning in lessons. Homework will either be set weekly or as projects over a period of weeks. The type of homework also varies and could include preparing props and costumes to bring in for assessments, researching different styles of Theatre or writing reflections and evaluations of their own and others work. Some of the homework set will go towards the students final grade for a unit of work. Homework is assessed in line with the department and school policies and makes use of the RAG system and diagnostic feedback. Students are required to comment on the written homework pieces and set targets to improve

Drama Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4- Drama

Drama is a popular option at GCSE and students can option to study the Edexcel GCSE Drama course in Year 10 and 11. Students will apply the skills and knowledge acquired during the Key Stage 3 Curriculum to the work that they focus on during the lessons.

Students are required to complete three units over the two years. Unit 1 is based on a theme or issue which is explored during a 6 hour workshop followed by a 2,000 word controlled assessment based on the exploration and understanding of the theme and issue.

Unit 2 is based on a script which is again explored over 6 hours followed by a 1,000 word controlled assessment on the exploration. Students are also required to watch a live theatre performance followed by a 2,000 word theatre review.

Unit 3 is a practical exam and forms 40% of the overall grade; this is completed at the end of year 11. Students are required to prepare and perform a devised or scripted piece to an external examiner in front of a live audience.

Key Stage 4 Programme of study (Timeline)
Edexcel GCSE Drama Specification

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 10	Intro to GCSE Drama course – explorative strategies, mediums and elements	Devising scheme and mock assessment using unit 3 criteria	Unit 1 – Theme based.	Unit 1 – Completion of Theme based assessment. Skills development	Live Theatre Performance review.	Skills development (monologues /duets)
Year 11	Unit 2 Coursework complete	Unit 1 coursework complete	Preparation for Unit 3 exam	Preparation for Unit 3 exam. Unit 3 exam		

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Show My Homework and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource.

The department set homework on a weekly basis and cover the work completed in class. Students are expected to complete the homework to high standard. Homework varies in type of work set from reflecting on the work in lessons to help prepare for controlled assessments to learning lines and preparing costumes and props. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement. Homework is assessed in line with the department and school policies and makes use of the RAG system and diagnostic feedback. Students are required to comment on the written homework pieces and set targets to improve.

Students may find the GCSE Drama bitesize website helpful to revise and check understanding of key words, strategies, mediums and elements as well as helpful tips. This can be found:

[BBC - GCSE Drama](#)

Drama Key Stage 5

Drama in sixth form differs to that in lower school where group sizes are smaller and the delivery of the lessons focuses on students becoming independent and mature learners by the teacher become more the guide at the side. Students can opt to study the Edexcel AS/A2 Drama and Theatre Studies course and over the two years they will study four units of work.

Unit 1 (Year 1) – Exploration of Drama and Theatre - Practical Exploration of two plays texts and a practitioner. We study Mother Courage and Her Children and focus on the practitioner of Bertolt Brecht. The second text we study is A Streetcar Named Desire. Students are required to write 3,000 word exploration notes based on the study of these texts and the practitioners. They also required to write a 1,000 word theatre review of a live theatre performance.

Unit 2 (Year 1) – Theatre Text in Performance – This is an externally assessed practical of a monologue/duologue and performance of a professional play. This is performed in front of an audience of friends and family and an examiner is invited into the school to assess the students on their practical work. Students are required to write a 500 word design concept of their piece under controlled conditions.

Unit 3 (Year 2) – Exploration of Dramatic Performance – Students must devise their own unique and original piece of performance applying skills and knowledge from the previous year of study that is a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes (depending on the group size). Students are required to write 3,500 words of supporting evidence.

Unit 4 (Year 2) – Theatre Text in Context – This is an externally assessed written exam on a specific play that is studied in class Students are to study a play from a choice of three set by the exam board and develop and shape their ideas from the perspective of a director. For section C students must watch a live performance of the text studied. The exam in 2 hours 30 minutes in length and split into

Title of Qualification (AS/A2) Edexcel AS/A2 Drama and Theatre Studies

AS/A2 Edexcel Drama and Theatre Studies Specification

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
--	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

Year 12	Programme of study to explore various elements of the course	Study of text 1 and theatre practitioner	Continued study of text 1. Study of text 2	Preparation for unit 2	Performance of unit 2	Preparation for year A Level
Year 13	Devising of piece for unit 3	Continuation of devising for unit 3. Performance of unit 3 piece	Preparation for Unit 4 exam	Preparation for Unit 4 exam	Unit 4 exam	

Home Learning & Independent Study Expectations

The department set homework on after each lesson based on work set in class (notes and preparation for their exploration notes) or research projects. There are also occasions where students will be expected to learn lines and prepare props and costumes for their practical performances and attend extra rehearsals outside of timetabled lessons. Students are expected to complete the homework to high standard. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement. Homework is assessed in line with the department and school policies and makes use of the RAG system and diagnostic feedback. Students are required to comment on the written homework pieces and set targets to improve.

What will you need to study this course?

To study Drama A' Level, you will need 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE, or equivalent, including at least a grade B in Drama GCSE and a C in English.