



Department Staffing

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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 extracurricular activities.

Department Information

The Drama department currently consists of two full time members of teaching staff, one part-time teacher (currently on maternity leave) 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 a 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 after school to support various school Musicals and Plays that run all year round and that are open to all year groups. We run Theatre trips for various year groups to ensure that students are given the opportunity to experience a wide range of genres and cultures.

Drama Key Stage 3

Students in year 7 and 8 study Drama three times a fortnight from September to February before switching over to Music for the remainder of the year or vice versa. In year 9 students are on a similar rotation but have one lesson per week for the half year that they study Drama.

All lessons are delivered by dedicated 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 and develop their extended writing skills.

Over the three years, students study a range of different topics that are either Drama specific or focus on themes and topics. 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. The structure for our curriculum is based on the KS4 GCSE Drama specifications.

Key Stage 3 Programme Of Study (Timeline)

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
7	<p>Introduction to Drama</p> <p>(Focus on Drama skills and Techniques)</p>	<p>The Evacuation</p> <p>(Focus on character development; skills and techniques to develop character)</p> <p>All students in Drama and Music are invited on a Pantomime trip to Oxford in December</p>	<p>Pantomime</p> <p>(Focus on the stock characters and characteristics of Pantomime)</p>	<p>Introduction to Drama</p> <p>(Focus on Drama skills and Techniques)</p>	<p>The Evacuation</p> <p>(Focus on character development; skills and techniques to develop character)</p>	<p>Pantomime</p> <p>(Focus on the stock characters and characteristics of Pantomime)</p>

8	Oedipus (Exploration of Greek Theatre and techniques used in Greek Theatre using the script Oedipus)	Commedia De'Il Arte (Exploration of Commedia and the techniques of this style of Theatre)	Script (Exploration of two scripts with the focus on how to interpret the text and develop the characters).	Oedipus (Exploration of Greek Theatre and techniques used in Greek Theatre using the script Oedipus)	Commedia De'Il Arte (Exploration of Commedia and the techniques of this style of Theatre)	Script (Exploration of two scripts with the focus on how to interpret the text and develop the characters).
9	Devising (Development of a range of performances based on a variety of stimulus)	Devising/Scripted (Devising unit is completed) (Exploration of a PSHE theme through the use of scripts)	Scripted (Exploration of a PSHE theme through the use of scripts)	Devising (Development of a range of performances based on a variety of stimulus)	Devising/Scripted (Devising unit is completed) (Exploration of a PSHE theme through the use of scripts)	Scripted (Exploration of a PSHE theme through the use of scripts)

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Go 4 Schools and staff within the faculty set homework for students using this resource. Students at Key Stage 3 are set homework that reflects the teaching and learning in lessons. The type of homework 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. Homework is assessed in line with the department and school policies and makes use of the RAG system and diagnostic feedback.

Drama Key Stage 4

Drama is a popular option at GCSE and students can option to study the Eduqas 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 focused on Devising. Students create a performance using the techniques of a theatre practitioner or a genre in response to a stimulus. Students are required to produce a portfolio and an evaluation of their final performance.

Unit 2 is a practical exam and students study two extracts from a play text and then perform these extracts in front of an audience.

Unit 3 is a written exam (1 hour 30 minutes) and is split into two sections. Section A is based on a set text. The exam is prepared for practically to ensure that students are fully understand the text. Section B is a live theatre review of a performance they have seen.

Key Stage 4 Programme Of Study (Timeline) Eduqas GCSE Drama Specification

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 10	Intro to GCSE Drama course – explorative strategies, mediums and elements	Introduction to practitioners and styles/genres of theatre.	Unit 1 Mock	Unit 1 Delivery of Devising unit	Unit 1 Completion	Unit 3 Preparation begins
Year 11	Unit 2 Preparation begins Unit 3 Preparation continues	Unit 2 Preparation begins Unit 3 Preparation continues	Unit 2 Completion Unit 3 Preparation continues	Unit 3 Preparation continues	Unit 3 Exam	

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Go 4 Schools 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/A Level Drama and Theatre course. The AS consists of 2 units of one year and the A Level consists of 3 units of one year (or over 2 years).

Unit 1 – AS – Exploration and Performance (60% of AS) (Internal assessed, externally moderated)

Students study an extract from a play text and prepare this for performance in light of the work of a practitioner. They work in a group to rehearse and refine ideas for this performance. They produce a portfolio of work that details their exploration, rehearsal and creation process and evaluate their contribution to it. (This will be between 2000-2500 words).

They also prepare and perform a monologue or a duologue from a different play text.

Unit 2 – AS – Theatre Makers in Practice (40% of AS) (External written paper)

This is an externally assessed written exam of 1 hour 45 minutes based on detailed study of one set play text and one live theatre performance students have seen. Section A is based on the live theatre performance they have seen. Section B is based on a set text that they will study and questions will be based on the performance and the design elements of this text.

Unit 1 – A Level – Devising (40% of A Level) (Internal assessed, externally moderated)

Students prepare a devised performance based on an extract from a play text and a practitioner. They work in a group to rehearse and refine ideas for this performance. They produce a portfolio of work that details their exploration, rehearsal and creation process and well as the final performance. (This will be between 2500-3000 words).

Unit 2 – A Level – Text in Performance (20% of A Level) (Externally assessed)

Students create a performance from a play text, rehearsing and refining ideas for this performance. They also prepare and perform a monologue or a duologue from a different play text.

Unit 3 – A Level – Theatre Makers in Practice (40% of A Level) (External written paper)

This is an externally assessed written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes based on detailed study of two set play texts and one live theatre performance they have seen. Section A is based on the live theatre performance they have seen. Section B is based on one set text and students will answer questions based on performance and design elements of this play text. Section C is based on another set text and the focus of a practitioner; students will create a director's concept for a re-imagined production of the play.

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

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 12 AS	Introduction to Course and key skills. Study of various practitioners	Study of various practitioners Unit 1 Preparation begins (group piece) Unit 1 preparation begins (monologue)	Unit 2 Introduction of set text and exam Unit 1 Preparation continues	Unit 1 Assessment Unit 2 preparations continue	Unit 2 Exam	
Year 13 A Level	Unit 1 Devising Unit 3 Introduction to set text 1	Unit 1 Performance of devised piece Unit 2 Preparation begins Unit 3 Set text 1	Unit 1 Assessment Unit 2 Continuation Unit 3 Set text 2	Unit 2 Assessment Unit 3 Preparations	Unit 3 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.