

DRAMA AND THEATRE

A Level

Where do I start from?

You will need to meet the School's minimum entry requirements. Please also refer to the Sixth Form Minimum Entry Requirements for 2019 Entry information sheet. For this subject you will need a minimum Grade 6 in either English Language or Literature. Maths minimum Grade 4 is acceptable. A Grade 6 for Drama, if you studied this at GCSE, is required. You should have an interest in the theatre, effective group skills and the confidence and desire to develop your dramatic skills. You should enjoy the appreciation of plays in performance plus have the ability to communicate your ideas verbally and in written form.

If you did not study Drama and feel that you have evidence of outstanding Drama related skills then please have a discussion with the Expressive Arts Curriculum Team Leader, Ms Hasan, before submitting your application.

What will I study?

There are 3 components;

1. Drama and Theatre

You will develop your knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed and learn how to analyse and evaluate live theatre. This will involve attending the theatre and the study of two set plays, one pre-20th Century and one from the 20th/21st Century. You will explore context, conventions, form and structure and investigate the theatrical processes and practices involved in interpreting and performing theatre for an audience.

2. Creating Original Drama (devising)

This is a practical component where you create and develop ideas, communicate meaning as part of the theatre making process, make connections between dramatic theory and practice and apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance.

3. Making theatre (scripted performance)

This is a practical component in which you apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance and analyse and evaluate your own work.

How will I be assessed?

Termly assessments and internal examinations to determine progress achieved.

Public examinations are as follows:

Component 1 – marked by AQA

- Written examination (open book): 3 hours, 80 marks, 40% of A-level
- Section A: One question (from a choice) on one of the set plays (25 marks)
- Section B: Two part question on a given extract from another set play (25 marks)
- Section C: One question on the work of theatre makers in a live theatre production (30 marks)

Component 2 – marked by teachers, moderated by AQA

- Performance of devised drama (performer, designer or director) using one prescribed practitioner
- Working notebook (40 marks) and devised performance (20 marks), 30% of A-level

Component 3 – marked by AQA

- Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts from different plays. Extract 3 is performed as a final assessed piece (performer, designer or director) using a prescribed practitioner
- Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts
- Performance (40 marks) and reflective report (20 marks), 30% of A-level

How will I study?

Lessons will vary in style depending on the topic, though all elements of the course are approached through practical skills in order to understand the impact of the play, genre or the practitioner being studied. Learning will involve; note-taking, structured notebooks and reflective reports; wider reading around the playwright/director/practitioner; personal research into areas of interest for devised pieces, context and text performances; regular theatre trips to view good practice; various styles of performance, rehearsals out of lessons and written examination technique.

What does the subject combine well with?

Drama combines well with English Language and Literature, History and Psychology as well as Arts subjects; Art, Music or Photography. It is often highly regarded by employers, as the course develops creative and critical thinking, confidence, communication skills, an ability to work within a group, respond to others, and to analyse and draw conclusions.