A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE

Exam Board: AQA

Sixth Form

Where do I start from?

For this subject you will need a minimum Grade 6 in either English Language or Literature and Maths minimum Grade 4. A Grade 6 for Drama is required. You should have an interest in the theatre, effective group skills and the desire to develop your written and performance skills. You should enjoy the appreciation of plays in performance plus be able to communicate your ideas verbally and in written form.

If you did not study Drama but feel you have evidence of outstanding Drama related skills, please have a discussion with Ms Hasan, Curriculum Team Leader, or Mrs Greenaway.

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 and 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 on a set text (choice from 2, as actor, designer or director, 25 marks)
- Section B: Three part question on a given extract from another set play (as director, designer and actor, 30 marks – 10 marks each)
- Section C: One question (choice from 4) on the work of theatre makers in a live theatre production (25 marks)

Component 2 – marked by teachers, moderated by AQA

- Performance of devised drama (performer, designer or director) using one prescribed practitioner based on a stimulus
- 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 (different from the one studied in Component 2)
- 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; some elements of the course are approached through practical skills in order to understand the impact of the play, genre or the practitioner being studied, however, there is essay writing and written coursework. Learning will involve; note-taking, structured notebooks and reflective reports; wider reading; personal research into areas of interest for devised pieces, context, text and 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 other Arts subjects. 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 and how to analyse and draw conclusions.