



A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

Why study Drama and Theatre?

You may be keen on performing, directing or on the design and technical side of theatre and wish to develop your skills in some or all these areas. The qualification is designed to enable you to acquire a knowledge and understanding of the language of theatre as well as to develop your performing and analytical skills.

There are many organised trips to the theatre to see plays and practitioners. These will incur extra costs yet provide invaluable knowledge and experiences to inform your own practice.

Entry requirements

We expect a grade 6 in GCSE Drama and/or English. You must be prepared to talk and write articulately about the context of the performances you see or study. It is important that you are interested in gaining a greater understanding of how theatre and plays work and that you are keen to be involved with performances. You need to be curious about issues and ideas and have a creative instinct for communicating your views through drama.

What does the course involve?

You will learn how to be creative.

You will be encouraged to be curious, open, present, inquisitive and problem solve. The course has a straightforward structure with three components, one that focuses on devising, one performing or designing skills and one that focuses on exploration of texts to interpret them for performance as an actor, designer and director.

There is a strong focus on the practical exploration of performance texts, including exploring them considering the work of theatre practitioners. The performance texts that will be studied for the exam will require students to articulate how they would perform in certain roles, design for scenes and interpret a text for performance, putting practical work at the heart of the course.

You will explore *Accidental Death of An Anarchist* by Dario Fo, a political farce. In addition, you will study *Woyzeck* by Georg Buchner, acquiring an understanding of the working methods of Punchdrunk, an immersive theatre company. You will learn about philosophical, ideological and political perspectives that different arts work represents.

Exam Board

Edexcel

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through a combination of written course work, in conjunction with practical non-examined assessments and one written exam at the end of Year 13.

Component 1 (Devising)

In this component you will develop your creative and exploratory skills to devise an original performance. The starting point will be a performance text and an influential theatre practitioner. In your creative explorations, you will learn how text can be manipulated to communicate meaning to audiences and begin the process of interpretation. You will gain an understanding of how a new performance can be developed through the practical exploration of the theatrical style and use of conventions of the Post Dramatic Theatre Practitioners Forced Entertainment.



Component 2 (Text in performance)

You perform, or design, in a group piece, directed by your teacher, as well as a monologue or duologue that is self directed, (but facilitated by your teacher). This component allows you to acquire the techniques required of an actor when preparing for a production: for example, interpreting the text, building the character/s and developing the performance skills to give a fully rounded and sustained performance (externally assessed by a visiting examiner who will assess your performance/design skills.)

Component 3 (Theatre makers in practice)

Theatre is a collaborative art form, and it is important that you have a clear understanding of how different creative ideas are put into practice. This component requires you to consider, analyse and evaluate how different theatre makers create impact. You will consider how production ideas and dramatic elements are communicated to an audience from the perspective of a director, a performer and a designer. As an informed member of the audience at a live performance you will deconstruct theatrical elements which inform your own production choices and develop your own ideas. This component is a written examination which requires you to study in detail two set play texts and one prescribed historical period of theatrical development.

What can an A Level in Drama and Theatre lead to?

The study of Drama and Theatre at A Level can help students with a variety of skills as well as develop their creative career aspirations. The skills that are learnt by studying drama are invaluable in later life. For example, being able to speak and present confidently in front of people, and the skill of planning that is required in any production, are useful in many careers. Drama can be a good basis for ANY career. Students who study this course will enhance their skills in creative thinking, teamwork, analysis, presentation skills, planning etc. The course supports students wishing to improve their communication skills in both verbal and written forms. Students can progress from this course into a number of career areas either by further study or by direct entry to the job market. The skills you gain while studying a performing arts degree are valued by all types of employers, for example confidence, self presentation, teamwork and collaboration, ability to experiment with different ideas and learning from feedback. Examples of related roles that students may pursue could include Actor, Stage Manager, Arts Administrator, Drama therapist and Television Production Assistant.

Students who have previously studied A Level Drama and Theatre have pursued a diverse range of paths including politics, psychology, business, law, medicine and genetics.

What skills will be developed in Drama and Theatre A Level course?

You will develop a multitude of skills, including collaboration, communication and an understanding of how to amend and refine work in order to make a smooth transition to your next level of study or employment. You will develop higher order thinking skills.

Drama and Theatre Studies is taught jointly across the Foundation.

