



Drama and Theatre Studies

Exam Board: Edexcel

Contact teacher: Ms A Hurst

Why study Drama and Theatre Studies?

You may be planning a future in performing arts or you might want to have a 'creative' subject to complement your array of A Level choices. Drama offers you a varied and engaging study of the work of the theatre. It is a challenging, exciting and hugely rewarding course. You will gain a critical knowledge and understanding of drama from its origins to the present day. You will perform in productions and participate in workshops as well as undertake written examination work and coursework. You will have the opportunity to work as part of a lively and supportive group.

Course details

AS level

Unit 1: Exploration of Drama and Theatre. This unit introduces you to the content of two plays written for the theatre. At least one of the plays must be explored in the light of a recognised theatre practitioner. You will learn how to analyse plays in a variety of ways so that you become familiar with the way written plays can be interpreted for realisation in performance.

Unit 2: Theatre Text in Performance. This unit offers you the chance to demonstrate skills in a performance environment. The knowledge and understanding gained during the study of two plays in Unit 1 can now be applied with a view to delivering a performance to an audience. The first section requires you to offer either a monologue or duologue. The second section requires you to contribute to a performance of a professionally published play by a known writer.

A2 level

Unit 3: Exploration of Dramatic Performance. The unit requires the creation of a unique and original piece of theatre. The knowledge and understanding gained in the AS units can now be applied to a created production. You will be assessed on both the process of creation and the finished production in the form of a performance to an invited audience.

Unit 4: Theatre Text in Context. The externally examined written unit requires the detailed study of one set play text and one prescribed historical period of theatrical development which will be based on a current live theatre performance.

How is the course taught and assessed?

The course is both academic and practical. Plays are explored in detail and viewed in the light of theatre practitioners. Live theatre is attended at set points over the two years and is always encouraged. Practical work is integral to the course and forms a significant part of your final mark, including creating and performing a piece of your own.

Entry requirements

Students intending to take Drama and Theatre Studies at A level will be expected to have achieved 6 GCSEs at grade C or above including English Language and Mathematics and also should have achieved a B or above for GCSE Drama. Students may take Drama at A level if they have not done it at GCSE providing that they have a grade B or above in GCSE English Literature and Language.

What are the progression routes with this qualification?

Drama and Theatre Studies complements a wide range of subjects and is useful in building confidence and improving presentation skills in a range of careers.

What extra work can I do?

Wider reading is always advisable as is seeing plenty of live theatre to broaden experience.