

Drama and Theatre Studies A Level

Course Description:

Drama offers you the opportunity to develop your individual creativity and to broaden your understanding of the complexities of theatre. If you enjoy practical exploration of drama and want to expand your knowledge of performance analysis, this course will enable you to appreciate the demands and rewards of a holistic approach to theatre. The emphasis is on Drama and Theatre Studies as a practical, intellectual and artistic subject.

Qualifications Required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. In addition you should have Grade 5 or above in GCSE Drama and Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language. If you have not had the opportunity to take Drama you should have some performance experience, and you will be required to perform an audition piece. You must have a willingness to participate in practical Drama work, a commitment to out-of-hours rehearsals at certain times of the year and a real passion for Drama.

Aims of the Course:

The course aims to promote the constructing of drama as a means of enquiry and communication together with developing knowledge and understanding of drama forms and texts.

Future Prospects:

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies is valued by universities for both its practical and academic achievements. It is effective preparation for those who wish to move on to apply to Drama Schools. If you are considering a career within the technical aspect of theatre, this course will give you a focused opportunity to explore and develop certain design elements. Students on this course have progressed to study drama at universities and Drama schools, for example Royal Central School of Speech And Drama, Performers, Millennium, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Birmingham, and Warwick. Other students have gone on to study a wide range of other subjects such as History, Politics, Law and even the Sciences; some of our students have also gone on to study at Oxford and Cambridge.

Student Feedback:

'Drama is a challenging but rewarding course, which is extremely helpful in life.'
'Drama gives numerous life skills such as confidence, team work and creativity skills.'
'You get to experience and see lots of different styles of theatre which is eye opening.'
'You get to work with different people and make new friendships.'

Features of the Course:

Practical workshops, group discussions, rehearsals, performance, independent research, live theatre analysis, study of play texts, design and directing focuses, creation of performance work, understanding of theatre practitioners.

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A Level Units

Component 1: Drama and Theatre

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- study of two set plays
- analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

Component 2: Creating Original Drama

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama (you may contribute as performer, designer or director)

Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner

Component 3: Making Theatre

- Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts each taken from a different play
- Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3, and Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (you may contribute as performer, designer or director)
- Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts

Methods of Assessment:

Component 1 – Open book written examination, 3 hours (40% of A Level)

Component 2 – Working notebook, devised performance (30% of A Level)

Component 3 – Performance of Extracts, reflective report (30% of A Level)