

DRAMA

The course aims to enable pupils to develop an insight into, and an understanding of, a wide range of activities. Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging GCSE, which combines written theory and practical work. The Department follows the AQA GCSE Drama specification.

Aims

The course is designed to encourage pupils to develop, through the process of drama and theatre arts:

- interest in and understanding of a range of drama and theatre experiences.
- increased awareness of self.
- ability to work with others defining aims, working towards solutions and overcoming problems.
- imaginative approach to texts.
- interest in live theatre.
- ability to reflect critically upon their own and others' drama performances.

Assessment

60% will be assessed through non-examination assessment (written coursework and performance).

40% of GCSE Drama qualification will be assessed through a written examination.

There are three elements to the assessment:

- Understanding Drama (40%)
- Devising Drama (40%)
- Texts in Practice (20%)

1. Understanding Drama (40%)

Understanding Drama is assessed through a written examination that considers three areas:

- An understanding of drama and theatre terms and methods
- A study of a set text to be chosen from a range of texts
 - The emphasis will be on performance from an acting perspective and not a text as literature.

- All pupils will also need to understand the contribution of non-acting components such as stage design, lighting, costume and sound to a production.
- The analysis and evaluation of a piece of live theatre

There are three sections in the examination

- Multiple Choice (4 marks)
- Set Text (44 marks)
- Live Theatre (32 marks)

2. The Process of Creating a Devised Piece (40%)

This element is divided into two sections:

- The performance of a piece of live theatre as an actor or designer (20 marks)
- A devising log (60 marks)

The piece will evolve from stimulus material provided by the teacher and the log can take a number of forms from an entirely written log to an audio-visual presentation. The minimum number of actors in the piece must be two. If two performers, the piece should be between three and ten minutes; if three or more, it should be between four and twenty minutes. This is marked by your teacher and moderated by AQA.

3. The Performance of two extracts from one play (20%)

The play must not be similar in genre and style to the chosen set text, but otherwise will be the choice of the pupil(s) with guidance from the teacher. The two pieces can be a monologue or larger groups. If the former, then a minimum length of between two and five minutes per extract; if a duologue, then between three and ten minutes; if there are three or more performers then between four and twenty minutes. This is examined in School, by an external examiner.

Mrs R J Lamberton
Head of Drama