

Drama & Theatre Studies



Information for
students and parents

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

Studying Drama and Theatre at A-level means experiencing professional theatre workshops with contemporary companies, seeing live professional theatre both locally and nationally, working practically through your studies exploring new, diverse and creative techniques in performing, directing and designing and, of course, having the opportunity to create and produce your own work.

This is an exciting and dynamic course which enables students to:

- Challenge themselves in the study of directing, performing, and designing their own work, both devised and scripted.
- Explore the work of both contemporary and historically influential theatre practitioners.
- Act as theatre critic evaluating and analyzing professional performances.
- Produce an historic play following their own unique director's concept.

The course works well as a stand alone subject and is valued by higher education establishments. Due to the depth of verbal reasoning and detailed analysis required Drama sits well with other subjects.

COURSE CONTENT

Exam board: Edexcel

Component 1: Devising (40% Coursework)

Devise an original performance piece using one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli. Centre choice of text and practitioner. Performer or designer routes available.

Component 2: Text in Performance (20% Coursework)

A group performance/design realisation of one key extract from a performance text.
A monologue performance/design realisation from one key extract from a different performance text. Centre choice of performance texts.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40% Written Exam)

Section A - Live theatre evaluation.

Section B - Page to Stage: Realising a Performance.

Section C - Interpreting a Performance Text.



A-level Drama students have lessons in the well equipped Drama Studio or the new Performing Arts Centre and the Main School Hall, all of which are furnished with stage lighting and sound systems. Performances also take place in these spaces but we do encourage students to make use of our surroundings and experiment with site specific work whenever possible.

To that end we attend a diverse collection of performances across the two years designed to challenge and inspire. Recent highlights include: Brecht's 'The Threepenny Opera' at The National Theatre, with an accompanying day long student experience; Theatre de Complicité's 'Pacifist's Guide to the War on Cancer'; 'Beautiful Burnout', the emotionally charged 'Lovesong' and the electric 'Othello' all from movement theatre company Frantic Assembly at Plymouth Theatre Royal; and the fascinating 'The Wedding' from movement theatre company Gecko.

We believe that all A-level students should have the opportunity to work with professional companies – most recently our students have attended practical workshops with Pilot Theatre Company, Frantic Assembly, Theatre Alibi and the internationally acclaimed Theatre de Complicité.

We are interested in nurturing informed, intelligent appreciation of all types of theatre performance, enabling our students to make exciting, creative choices within their own work.



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