

GCSE Drama (acting or technical)

"Imagining what it is like to be someone other than yourself is at the core of our humanity. It is the essence of compassion, and it is the beginning of morality."

Ian McEwan

Why study Drama

Is drama challenging?

Yes. Because it challenges you physically, mentally, intellectually, creatively, and socially. It challenges you to work at the edge of your comfort zone. The course combines practical, theoretical and written.

Is drama academic?

Yes. You work in detail with textual and visual material, interpreting, analysing and evaluating. You have to be able to write about text from the perspective of an actor, designer and director. You have to be able to analyse written material in a good level of detail

Will drama teach me essential skills I can use every day?

Yes. Essential skills like communication, leadership, initiative, confidence in front of people, risk-taking, problem-solving, collaboration, empathy, self-awareness, creative thinking, observation.

Will I get to know myself better?

Yes. You will. You will be able to explore and push your self-confidence, physicality and voice. Through placing yourself in unfamiliar situations you can see things from another point of view, find out things about how you react, and respond.

Will I broaden my understanding of the world around me?

Yes. You will encounter a huge range of views, opinions and issues to challenge your thinking, and make you re-evaluate the way you see things. The more you learn, the more you realise you don't know. Studying drama is a fantastic way of developing the confidence and the skills to open your eyes to the world around you.

What will you be learning?

- You will learn practically about different types of performance and be able to perform or design confidently and knowledgeably in a range of different styles and forms
- You will learn a wide range of skills and techniques that will make you a significantly better performer or designer
- You will learn how to create and devise your own work for performance, developing an awareness and understanding of the processes and challenges involved
- You will learn how to research, prepare and perform material from a range of scripts and stimuli
- You will learn to interpret and analyse plays, and turn your thinking and research into performance or design
- You will learn about lighting, sound, costume, make-up and set design, and have the opportunity to create design concepts for plays
- You will explore a range of plays through practical workshop and discussion
- You will learn how to critically evaluate and analyse your own work and others'

- You will learn how to work effectively on your own and in small groups, and how to develop your ideas and creativity in a way that will allow you to express yourself artistically

Assessments (60% practical; 40% written)

- **Practical** performance or design in a piece of devised theatre; *internally assessed, and*
- 1.5 hour **written** report and 750-900 word process log (40%)
- **Practical** performance or design from a play script; *externally assessed (20%)*
- 1.5 hour **written** exam, exploring (i) a set text from the point of view of an actor, designer and director, and (ii) a review of a performance or production you have seen (40%)

What technical options are there?

You can choose from:

Set (including props); Lighting; Sound; Costume (including make-up)

You will work with a small group of actors and must come up with a design concept that is suitable for their performance and style. You will need to present your design and design process to an examiner in an informal short presentation, where you talk them through your design, with examples and evidence of the process.

You do this for a scripted piece and a devised piece. You can work in different areas for each piece and it is possible to combine one design role in one piece and an acting role in another.

What can it lead to?

You will be able to demonstrate to any prospective employer that you have learned and experienced personal skills that are considered hugely valuable in any workplace. These include: teamwork; making independent decisions; using imagination and initiative; being able to speak clearly; being able to take criticism; working under tension or pressure; adjusting to changes in the working environment; following instructions and working to deadlines.

This course also provides excellent preparation for any student considering taking Drama in the sixth-form, and has been a first step for many students who have gone on to training as actors, directors and designers at some of the best drama schools in the country.

Want to know more?

Speak to Mr Brown or Miss Shepherd.