

DRAMA

Drama is one of the Performing Arts subjects. In the first three years, students study a combination of Drama, Dance and Music on a carousel, spending four weeks on each discipline. They will have around 30 lessons of each subject throughout the year. There are also a variety of extra-curricular activities within Performing Arts including: Drama Club, Drama productions, Rock School, instrumental lessons, Dance Club, trips to see performances and in school workshops by professional companies.

Aims of the subject in Year 7

In Year 7, the key aims are:

- To build upon the student's imagination and help them to realise the extent of their creativity
- To develop their use of social and communication skills through challenging and engaging group work
- To build confidence through performing and sharing work with others

What will be studied in Year 7

Over the year, students will explore a different set of skills and stimuli on each Drama rotation. Currently, students use '*Kensuke's Kingdom*' by Michael Morpurgo to explore the story of Michael and his survival on an island. Then, students will use a script to help develop their reading skills and to understand how a writer uses dialogue. Finally, students will work in set groups to create an original sitcom and develop an understanding of the rules and dynamics of comedy.

Aim of the subject in Year 8

In Year 8, the aims are:

- To develop an understanding of how voice and gesture can create an emotive atmosphere
- To explore how to interpret a scene from a script
- To learn the key terms of a stage and theatre

What will be studied in Year 8

At the start of Year 8, students delve into the haunted world of *Darkwood Manor* in order to explore how voice and gesture can create a tense atmosphere. Then, students will be introduced to the plays of Shakespeare by looking at the plot, characters, and situations of his most famous plays. Finally, students will look at the play *Free* by David Grant.

Aims of the subject in Year 9

In Year 9, the key aims are:

- To develop an understanding of a genre of Theatre
- To create fully dimensional characters
- To use current affairs to inform their own ideas

What will be studied in Year 9

At the start of Year 9, students will explore the world of *Theatre of the Absurd* by using the work of Samuel Beckett and Eugene Ionesco. They will then use a script from the National Theatre Connections collection and will look at how the writer creates characters and relationships. They will also explore the underlying themes and issues within the play. In the final rotation, students will work in set groups in order to devise, write, perform and then market their own play inspired by the current GCSE Drama Component 1 stimuli.

DRAMA – GCSE

Exam Board

EDUQAS

In Year 10, students will begin by understanding the building blocks of drama; developing characters, staging a scene, directing others, designing set and costume, writing scripts. They will then look at the theories and techniques underpinning a variety of contemporary theatre styles. As preparation for Year 11, they will examine a play script and prepare their own directorial and design concepts for staging a production of it.

In Year 11, students will begin the externally assessed work.

Unit 1 (40%) requires students to work in groups to devise a play inspired by a stimulus set by the exam board. The play must be influenced by the concepts of a theatre practitioner or company. Students are required to write a portfolio to show how the play was made, perform or design and write an evaluation of the final performance.

Unit 2 (20%) requires students to work in small groups to present an extract from a published play. This focuses on their ability to bring a character to life. Students can be assessed on their performance of a role or on their presentation of design ideas (costume/set/lights/sound).

Unit 3 (40%) is a 1 ½ hour written exam. Students will study a published play and will be asked to answer questions from the viewpoint of an actor, director and designer. They will also have to answer a question on a live theatre performance that they have seen.

Further information from Mr C Harrison