

Drama Curriculum Summary

KS4 Curriculum Summary

Introduction

GCSE Drama allows for students to explore their creativity, group working and analytical skills. A largely practical course within lesson times, students will develop their skills of constant reflection in the perform, review and evaluate cycle. They will maintain a drama journal with written reflective tasks throughout the course, perfecting the dramaturgical style of writing required for the examined portfolio and their final written exam.

Year 9

Students will undertake a practical exploration of the required skills at GCSE Drama, initially focusing on developing their performance skills, group working and considered use of structure and form. They will be introduced to the 3 components of the GCSE in the first two terms. These are textual performance and analysis, devising and live theatre evaluation. Alongside this introduction they will begin their studies of theatrical practitioners and genres of performance.

Year 10

Students will further develop their skills by taking part in extended studies of the chosen set text beginning their learning journey on 'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller. This will involve a full practical and theoretical exploration of the whole text. Students will learn to explore and wrestle with the thought provoking themes and content of the set text as well as perform key extracts and scenes for each other and parents during drama showcases later in the year. There will be an opportunity to watch the National Theatre production of 'The Crucible' in school and explore a variety of artistic interpretations from not only a performance perspective but looking at the technical theatre aspects of staging, lighting, sound and costume. Year 10 will have devising workshops over prolonged periods allowing them to devise original theatre on a thematic approach, with their prior knowledge on practitioners, explorative strategies and historical periods of theatre informing and developing their work. During year 10 students will take part in mock written exercises and watch a variety of live theatre on a digital platform, developing their analytical skills. Once again, they will gain experience in analysing and evaluating performance, staging, lighting, sound and costume. In the summer term of year 10 students will complete component 2 of their GCSE exam in the form of a devising workshop and producing a final devised piece, undertaken in school, recorded and externally moderated.

Year 11

Students will be using all their prior learning, theoretical and practical, to prepare their group pieces of 2 scenes/excerpts of a play text (to be chosen by the teacher). They will

apply their performance skills and theoretical knowledge to create an artistic interpretation of their allocated text and scenes that will be performed for an external examiner in the second half of the year. There will be a focus on mastery of the live theatre review within lessons, using our digital platforms to expose the students to a vast and exciting range of professional theatre in our new and custom built drama studio. Our year 11 classes will then enjoy a trip to watch a live piece of theatre in London, which they will use for their final written exam.

Please find below a short summary of the 3 components that make up the GCSE drama course.

Textual Studies

Students will gain experience in rehearsing and performing a variety of texts from different genres and periods. Theoretically, they will learn about the social and historical context of these plays to add depth to their understanding and develop appropriate performance styles to their practical work. Students will gain knowledge of the different creative periods in history and how these were products of political and sociological factors of the time. They will consider the overall purpose of art within society and begin to develop their own understanding of the next period of artistic production within our society, its purpose and meaning.

Students will be required to perform 2 excerpts from a text (in groups and to the text will be chosen by the teacher). This will require group work, independent self led study and rehearsals in preparation for an externally examined performance in Year 11. This brings the culmination of all their prior learning and practices to fruition as they create their own artistic interpretation of the text and characters.

Devising

Students will advance their ability and experience in devising and creating original theatre. They will study a range of theatrical practitioners and styles of theatre to allow them to experiment and 'play' with these concepts during the creative process. Students will learn how to put meaning, purpose and message along with artistic intention into structure and form and hone these skills to produce meaningful and impactful theatre.

Review of Live Theatre and Text Analysis

Students will go and see a live piece of theatre during Year 11. Students will develop their analytical and dramaturgical writing in order to answer exam questions based on an unseen section of the set text, which they have explored both practically and theoretically from Year 10.

Technical Theatre Option

As part of the GCSE drama there is a technical theatre route available for all 3 components. This will be discussed as a potential in conjunction with the teacher due to the independence of study required. This allows students to choose the option of looking at set, lighting or sound design and costume development. They can choose to focus on this for their live theatre review in the component 3 written exam. They can

apply to take on the role of one of the above technical routes for both component 1 (devising) and component 2 (text performance).

Exam board: Pearson Edexcel GCSE Drama GCSE

Specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/drama-2016.html>

Non-Examination Assessment

Component 1 (devising) is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Year 9

Topic	Principal resources
Performance Skills Stanislavski - Naturalism	
Explorative Strategies and Devising Skills	
Bertolt Brecht - Epic Theatre	
Augusto Boal - Theatre of the Oppressed	
Devising - Responding to a stimulus	
Live Theatre Review - Component 3	

Year 10

Topic	Principal resources
'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller - Component 3	
'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller - Component 3	
Frantic Assembly - Physical Theatre	
Devising - Component 1	
Devising - Component 1	
Live Theatre Review - Component 3	

Year 11

Topic	Principal resources
Performance from Text - Component 2 Groups and texts will be allocated prior to the summer holidays. Rehearsal Process External examination to take place in spring term.	
Live Theatre Review - Component 3 Attend a piece of live theatre and prepare notes for Section B of the written exam.	
'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller - Component 3	