

GCSE Drama

GCSE Drama is an exciting, but very demanding course. You will be expected to participate in practical activities that will eventually lead to assessed workshops, as well as produce some written assignments and complete a written Examination.



There are 3 units that are studied at GCSE level.

Unit one is called "Devising"- worth 40%

You will work in a group to produce a piece of drama, which will be video recorded and sent to the examining board for marking.

This can be something entirely original, or could be based on a picture, poem, Newspaper article, statistics, piece of music, short video clip that will be provided by your teacher. (Stimulus)

The second part of this unit requires you to create a portfolio of the creating and developing process for unit one, a bit like a log of how you structured your ideas, made decisions, worked as part of a group.

This will be completed in the format of a controlled assessment 2000 words. This can include writing, sketches, pictures etc.

Unit Two is called "Performance from Text"- worth 20%

You will perform 2 extracts from a scripted text chosen by the Teacher.

You are expected to have learnt all of the lines for both sections of the script and to have planned the staging, costume, lighting, music, props, set etc for each scene.

This will be performed to a visiting examiner who will moderate and assess the presentation and standard of the practical work.

Unit 3 is entitled "Theatre makers in Practice"- worth 40%

This unit is split into 2 parts and is a written exam of 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Part 1: you will study a complete performance text in class. You will then sit a written examination based on the performance text where you will have to answer 5 questions based on an unseen extract from the play.

Part 2: This section consists of 2 questions requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance that they have seen - again under examination conditions.

Units of work covered in Key stage 4 include:

Too much Punch for Judy - By Mark Wheeler

Hard to Swallow - Mark Wheeler

Scrape off the Black - Tunde Ikoli

Isolation

The Derek Bentley story

Theatre practitioners, including Brecht, Stanislavski, Artaud and Berkoff

Comedy

An inspector calls - JB Priestley