

# Drama

## What is this course about?

The GCSE course in Drama is a dynamic, challenging and varied course which provides a progressive education in performance skills, theatre practitioners and analysis of text and performance.

## What skills will students gain?

One of the attractions of Drama is the group work that you will find is at the heart of the practical element of the course. This will help you to become more confident and will promote team-building and communication skills. There is a lot of satisfaction to be gained from presenting your work to an audience, whether you are interpreting the work of a successful playwright or devising and presenting your own original ideas. The critical and practical skills and experiences that you will acquire during your Drama course are all good 'life skills' that you will be able to draw upon in the future.

## What skills are needed?

Drama is a practical option therefore competence or strong interest in acting is essential. It is also surprisingly academic and the ability to write coherent essays or the desire to develop in this area is also essential. You will be frequently expected to perform classwork and assessments in front of your class

## How is this course assessed?

### Practical Component (worth 60%)

Over the three years students complete five practical controlled assessment projects that cover a range of theatre styles. We currently offer Devised Thematic (work created from a theme using text and improvised work) Theatre in Education, improvisation and scripted projects of 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell and plays by John Godber such as 'Teachers', 'Bouncers' and 'Shakers'.

Practical Controlled Assessment projects consist of two parts which are assessed separately:

1. Part 1 (progression and evaluation)
2. Part 2 (live presentation of practical work)

### Written Paper (worth 40%)

The written paper is taken at the end of the three years and covers three areas of study, which the students have experienced during the course. They are expected to answer questions on the creative process and outcome of their own practical work including a play they have studied and their improvised work. They will also be prepared to write responses to live productions seen during the course. Therefore there will be a variety of theatre trips organised which students will be expected to attend as a requirement of the course.

**Qualification Received:** GCSE

**Grade Range:** 9 - 1

## What career or further education opportunities does this course lead to?

A GCSE in Drama provides a solid foundation for further studies in the performing arts, including A-level Theatre Studies. It will help students pursue their education or a career in many creative fields and is excellent preparation for any course requiring good communication and group work skills.

Employers value creativity and personality as they offer their company skills in inventive thinking and problem solving. The creative industries employ over 1.5 million people and the sector continues to grow.

Potential career paths include Arts/theatre administration, journalism, director, actor, designer, stage management, broadcaster/media-presenter, teaching, drama therapist, playwright, the civil service, the police, and public services.