



# GCSE Drama

# Course Aims



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The GCSE in Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. The specification promotes involvement in and enjoyment of drama, as performers and/or designers. Additionally, it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members. Learners will be given opportunities to participate in and interpret their own and others' drama. Learners have the option to work practically as performers and/or designers in Components 1 and 2. They will also have the opportunity to participate in the performance of an extract from a play text. Learners will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama, including their ability to interpret texts for performance, in a written examination. However, in preparation for this assessment, learners are encouraged to study their chosen text practically as a performer, designer and director.

The GCSE in Drama offers a broad and coherent course of study which enables learners to:

- apply knowledge and understanding when making, performing and responding to drama
- explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created
- develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performances
- work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas
- develop as creative, effective, independent and reflective learners able to make informed choices in process and performance
- contribute as an individual to a theatrical performance
- reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others
- develop an awareness and understanding of the roles and processes undertaken in contemporary professional theatre practice
- adopt safe working practices.

# Course Outline

## ○ Component 1: Devising

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated

40% of qualification

Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using techniques of an influential theatre practitioner, genre, in response to a stimulus. Students also complete a 2000-word Portfolio which documents their learning journey.

## ○ Component 2: Performance from Text

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner

20% of qualification

Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners study and perform two extracts from the same performance text chosen by the school.

## ○ Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

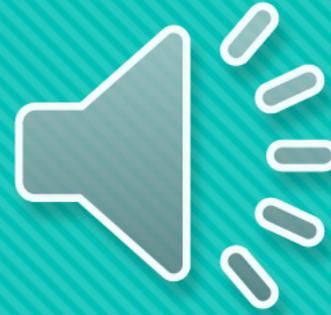
Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

40% of qualification

Section A: Set Text for assessment – DNA by Dennis Kelly. A series of questions on acting techniques and theatrical concepts.

Section B: Live Theatre Review. One analysis question on one key moment, and one evaluation question on the whole performance. One focuses on how acting skills have been portrayed and the other on design features.

# Cross-Curricular Links



Drama provides students with an extensive number of transferable skills that can be used across all subjects at school. Some of these transferable skills include:

- Critical Thinking
- Confidence
- Motivation
- Communication
- Confidence
- Teamwork
- Negotiation and conflict management
- Creativity
- Working well under pressure and meeting deadlines.



# Career Pathways



## Careers directly linked to drama:

Actor  
Drama therapist  
Theatre Director  
Producer  
Playwright  
Theatre Stage Manager  
Community Arts Worker  
Lighting Designer  
Sound Designer  
Set Designer  
Costume Designer  
TV Broadcaster  
Casting Director  
Talent Agent



## Careers where drama would be useful:

Teacher  
Lawyer  
Digital Marketer  
Events Manager  
Film or TV Producer  
Theatre Marketing Manager  
Outreach Worker  
Youth Worker

# Higher Education



## Universities

- University of Warwick
- University of Exeter
- University of York
- University of Manchester
- Lancaster University
- University of Surrey
- University of Bristol
- University of Leeds

## Drama Schools

- Royal Central School of Speech and Drama
- Guildford School of Acting
- Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance
- East 15 Acting School
- Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts
- London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts
- Royal Academy of Dramatic Art
- Bristol Old Vic





# Holcombe Habits in Drama



## **Empathy and Understanding**

Considering another person's thoughts and ideas; actively listening; being open-minded when encountering the perspectives and emotions of others.

## **Creative Thinking**

Generating new and novel ideas; originality and innovation.

## **Taking Responsible Risks**

Being adventurous; living on the edge of one's competence.

## **Continuous Learning**

Being reflective; resisting complacency; using our mistakes to grow and having humility when admitting we don't know something.

## **Thinking Interdependently**

Being able to work in and learn from others in reciprocal situations; contributing to a team.