GCSE Drama (Edexcel)

Course Outline

Drama is both a written and practical subject and is assessed in both areas, broken down into three components for the overall GCSE. You need to be comfortable in front of an audience, be able to work with others and be confident in your writing.

Students will learn how to devise and present a performance. Students will focus on acting and staging skills that are needed to put a piece of drama on the stage; how to create characters, how to act as characters in different performances; and learn many techniques that will enable them to identify with many different roles and portray them confidently. Students will be encouraged to see as many theatre shows as they can and explore and evaluate a selection of plays and performance texts through written reflections, essays and structured questions.

Assessment

Component 1 - Devising – Coursework (30%) Create and develop a devised piece from a given starting point. Written evidence analysing and evaluating the process – 2000 words maximum.

Component 2 – Performance from Text – Assessed by Visiting Examiner (30%) Perform two key extracts from a published performance text, this will be a group performance and a monologue or duologue.

Component 3 – Written Examination – (40%) 1 hour 30 minutes.

Section A – Exploration of the set text Blood Brothers. Students will be asked to ask questions on how they would direct and perform scenes of this text. They will act as a director, designer and performer.

Section B – Live Theatre Review. One 30 mark question focusing on reviewing a piece of live theatre. Students will be taken to see a performance to aid them completing this task.

Progression/further study

Drama, Performing Arts, Media, Theatre Studies, Creative writing, Production Design, from A-level to Post Graduate at College and University.

Having a performing arts qualification is highly desirable to both future education pathways and employers. This is because it clearly shows that the individual has strong team work and communication skills, is confident to deliver information and presentations to others and has the resilience required to master a skill.