Drama and Theatre A Level

Course Description:

Drama offers you the opportunity to develop your individual creativity and to broaden your understanding of the complexities of theatre. If you enjoy practical exploration of drama and want to expand your knowledge of performance analysis, this course will enable you to appreciate the demands and rewards of a holistic approach to theatre. The emphasis is on Drama and Theatre as a practical, intellectual and artistic subject.

Qualifications Required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. Grade 5 in Drama. Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language is advisable. If you have not had the opportunity to take Drama you should have some performance experience, and you will be required to perform an audition piece. You must have a willingness to participate in practical Drama work, a commitment to out-of-hours rehearsals at certain times of the year and a real passion for Drama.

Aims of the Course:

The course aims to promote the constructing of drama as a means of enquiry and communication together with developing knowledge and understanding of drama forms and texts.

Future Prospects:

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies is valued by universities for both its practical and academic achievements. It is effective preparation for those who wish to move on to apply to Drama Schools. If you are considering a career within the technical aspect of theatre, this course will give you a focused opportunity to explore and develop certain design elements. Students on this course have progressed to study drama at universities and Drama schools, for example Royal Central School of Speech And Drama, Performers, Millennium, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Birmingham, and Warwick. Other students have gone on to study a wide range of other subjects such as History, Politics, Law and even the Sciences; some of our students have also gone on to study at Oxford and Cambridge.

Student Feedback:

‘Drama is a challenging but rewarding course, which is extremely helpful in life.’
‘Drama gives numerous life skills such as confidence, team work and creativity skills.’
‘You get to experience and see lots of different styles of theatre which is eye opening.’
‘You get to work with different people and make new friendships.’

Features of the Course:

Practical workshops, group discussions, rehearsals, performance, independent research, live theatre analysis, study of play texts, design and directing focuses, creation of performance work, understanding of theatre practitioners.

Drama and Theatre Studies A Level

A Level Units

Component 1: Theatre Workshop
Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of:

- **one** *reinterpretation* of an extract from a text, using the working methods and techniques of **either** an influential theatre practitioner **or** a recognised theatre company.

Component 2: Text in Action
Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of:

- **one** devised piece using the working methods and techniques of a **second** different influential theatre practitioner **or** recognised theatre company
- **one** extract from a text in a different style to the devised performance.

Component 3: Text in Performance
Learners explore:

- **two** complete performance texts from different historical periods
- **one** extract from a third contrasting text.

In Components 1 and 2 learners are given the opportunity to develop performing **and/or** design skills.

Methods of Assessment:

Component 1 – Non-exam assessment: internally assessed and externally moderated by WJEC (20% of A Level)
Component 2 – Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner (40% of A Level)
Component 3 – Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (40% of A Level)