



13 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may already be aware, your child is currently working on Component 1 of their GCSE Drama course, which is based on students creating an original piece of devised drama. Component 1 assesses students on either their acting or design skills, and they are expected to participate in the creation, development and performance process of their devised piece of theatre. Component 1 makes up 40% of the overall GCSE qualification and is made up of three elements;

1. Realisation of a piece of devised theatre – worth 10%
2. Portfolio of supporting evidence – worth 20%
3. Evaluation of their final performance or design – worth 10%

All students are working in groups, and attendance at school and at after school rehearsals is crucial, absence from any remaining timetabled lessons or after school rehearsals can be extremely detrimental to their final grade for this component, and for others they are working with.

Final preparations

Students will be using all remaining lessons from now until their final performance date to rehearse and refine their performances ready for the final practical exam. It is also essential that students allocate as much free time as possible to meet with their group in order to carry out extra rehearsals. These rehearsals will allow students to continue developing work, carry out tech work and full runs of their performance. I would greatly appreciate your encouragement and support with this so that your child fully commits and applies 100% effort into the preparation and rehearsing of their performance, as it contributes to a significant proportion of their final grade.

After School Rehearsals.

Students have already been attending after school rehearsals and the dates and times of these rehearsals are available on Class Charts. The rehearsals provide each group with the opportunity to have exclusive use of the Drama Hall and to complete a final technical rehearsal and dress rehearsal, and importantly have feedback from two Drama teachers.

Tuesday 14 November 2023 – Evening Dress Performances

In order to get our students ready for their final exam we run their final full dress rehearsal as an evening performance. This evening provides the opportunity for students to show their performances to a live audience and get feedback that they can then act on. The performance evening is also an opportunity for family and friends of all the students to see some of the exam performances prior to the final exam. You are therefore invited to attend the performance on **Tuesday 14 November 2023** starting at **5:30pm** at Mark Rutherford School in the Drama Hall. On the day of the performance the Drama Hall will be available for students to rehearse from the end of the school day running up to the

Tel: 01234 290200 • Fax: 01234 290236 • email: mark.rutherford@mrus.co.uk • www.markrutherford.beds.sch.uk

 [mark_rutherford](https://twitter.com/mark_rutherford)

 Mark Rutherford School

Company Number. 08316719

start of the first performances. If Students decided to stay for the fully duration of this time they are advised to bring in something to eat and drink.

I would also like to make you aware that some of the performances may contain flashing lights, some sensitive issues and language some may find offensive.

Tuesday 21 November 2023 – Final Practical Exam Performance

Your child's exam will take place during the school day and they will be expected to arrive at school on Tuesday 21 November 2023 8.15am, in full school uniform and come straight to the Drama Hall. They must have all costume and props needed for their performance and will be off timetable all day in order to complete their practical exam. Their performances are shown to a live audience made up of other students and school staff and will be video recorded for moderation and final grading.

Portfolio of Supporting Evidence

After the practical exam the weeks that follow will be spent collating their portfolio of supporting evidence. This is traditional coursework, and students will be expected to work on this in class and for homework, making improvements, and attending any after school sessions if necessary. The final deadline for the Portfolio of Supporting Evidence is **Friday 2 February 2024**. The portfolio is worth 20% of their final GCSE grade, it is therefore important that they take the time to make suggested improvements and meet all interim deadlines.

Evaluation – Controlled Assessment

The final element of this component is a written evaluation which is completed under exam conditions on a computer. Students are allowed to take notes into the exam to help them write their evaluation, and lessons and homework will be allocated to create these notes, and practice writing an evaluation prior to the exam. The controlled assessment exam will happen on **Wednesday 13 December 2023**. Students will need to hand in the final version of their notes to their class teacher during the lesson prior to this date.

If you would like to discuss any of this information with us please email your child's Drama teacher g.farnsworth@mrus.co.uk or a.mckenzie@mrus.co.uk or j.doughty@mrus.co.uk or telephone the school on 01234 290200.

Yours faithfully



The Drama Department