DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

"There is a kind of invisible thread between the actor and the audience, and when it's there it's stunning, and there is nothing to match that."

Maggie Smith

Current Teaching Staff:
Miss J Abbott - Head of Department

Examination board and syllabus:
AQA A-Level 7262

Entrance requirement: At least a Grade 6 in GCSE Drama, if taken* and 6 in English Language.

*Students who have not taken GCSE Drama will be considered if they have relevant practical experience.

A level Drama:

Component 1: Drama and theatre

What's Assessed: Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre; Study of two set plays (Jerusalem by Jez Butterworth and Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka); Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.

Written Examination: 3 hours

40% of A level

Section A: one question (from a choice) on Jerusalem by Jez Butterworth. (25 marks)
Section B: one three part question on a given extract from Metamorphosis by Steven Berkoff. (30 marks)
Section C: one question (from a choice) relating to a live theatre performance. (25 marks)

Component 2: Creating original drama

What's Assessed: Process of creating devised drama; Performance of a devised piece of drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director). Devised piece must be influenced by the work of one prescribed practitioner.

30% of A level

Working notebook (40 marks) Devised Performance (20 marks)

Component 3: Making Theatre

What's Assessed: Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts, each taken from a different play; Methodology of a prescribed practitioner (must be applied to extract 3); Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director); Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts.

30% of A level

Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks) Reflective report (20 marks)

Lessons are taught in a fully equipped Drama studio and in classrooms for the written components, especially towards the exam in year 13. Set texts are studied from a performance perspective. Lessons tend to start with written starters before moving onto warm up activities and practical rehearsals. There is an emphasis placed on developing practical skills AND written skills to a high level. Students tend to work in small groups, developing a given stimulus for performance within class.

Students need to show real commitment and enthusiasm to all aspects of the course. Although the lessons are primarily practical, it is essential that students carry out individual research to help inform their understanding of complex theatrical theories.

CAREERS

Acting for stage and screen,
Multimedia related jobs,
Theatre in education,
Advertising, Journalism.