

Drama Curriculum Intent

KS3

All elements of Key Stage 3 drama will fully prepare students for GCSE Drama and Performing Arts however fundamentally our ultimate aim is to provide a safe environment for pupils who find expressing themselves creatively and publicly challenging. We endeavour to adapt our schemes to encourage pupils to participate and grow in self confidence whilst working in a variety of group types and sizes developing 'soft skills' which pupils require for everyday life.

If we don't complete a particular scheme within the specific half term sections, we will be flexible in schemes, adapting our long term planning to cover the essential parts of the unit which we think are the most beneficial. This allows for class adaptation and reaction to the needs of the curriculum.

In Year 7 Autumn term, students will begin by developing and learning drama skills working on characterisation, spatial relationships, the role of a performer, the role of the audience and staging. Each element will help students develop drama skills and rehearsal techniques. Students will use a stimulus to create a performance using and adding to the skills they have learned, in this scheme they will also consider how they can empathise with other people in situations different to their own. This will be followed by a written element (Theatre Review) which directly correlates with component three of the GCSE.

We look at heightened theatre styles linking to script work as pupils will tackle a whole play, bringing sections to life as a class, planning set, lighting and costume to bring theatre work to life. In the Summer term, students will study where theatre began - Greek theatre traditions, experiment with choral speech and movement and apply these to a script in performance. This again links directly with the GCSE & A level courses and allows students to practice their analytical and evaluative skills of the work of themselves and their peers.

In Year 8, students will look at theatre genres, branching out from naturalistic performance styles to look at thriller/horror theatre styles, building upon prior learning of skills and stimulus. Next, students will study a unit on Outsiders and discrimination in society. This work allows students to discuss and explore themes of disability, neuro divergency and historical attitudes towards this through theatre. This leads to their creative script unit, using their devising skills by adapting and extending an opening of a playscript. Pupils practice 'Extra Skills' which help to develop their soft skills, helping in all aspects of life from interview technique to switching styles in verbal communication. Having explored a range of theatre styles and techniques, students will complete a devising unit which is the first component completed at GCSE Level. Students will work together to create a performance based on themes and ideas from a given stimulus.

Year 9 studies develop transferable skills and foundation knowledge. We start with the study of a play practically, which includes skill improvement and retrieval of techniques from Y7 & 8. In the Summer term, we will introduce a devising project and appropriate written skills to prepare students for the GCSE course which will start in Year 10.

KS4

[AQA GCSE Specification](#)

KS4 Drama is designed to unlock the use of imagination, intellect, empathy and courage. Through the study of the subject; ideas, responses and feelings can be expressed and communicated and whilst a largely practical subject it is an intellectual discipline requiring academic focus. Students will develop their understanding of both performance and technical theatre elements and be able to analyse and evaluate how these are used to shape ideas. Students will study a range of theatre practitioners styles, understanding the methodologies which they can use to further their own drama.

Over the course of the 2-year programme, students start by recapping in greater focus the skills they have developed in KS3. In addition they are introduced to the written elements of the GCSE course and how to write analytically, descriptively and evaluatively.

	As they reach Spring Term Year 10, they begin to complete the 3 components required for GCSE Drama. Component 1 is a written examination split into 3 sections. For section a, students are required to have a general knowledge of job roles and responsibilities of certain careers in theatre, different types of staging and information regarding a specific stage map. In section b students are required to study a set text, Blood Brothers by Willy Russell, which they will explore both practically and theoretically. For section c, students watch and review a live theatre performance. Students will apply the knowledge they have gained in Key Stage 3 to analyse the effect of how theatre makers have come together to enhance each other and how drama skills have been used to make a success of the performance. Component 2 is a devising unit which requires students to work collaboratively in groups to create a performance with clear artistic intentions using a stimulus as inspiration. Students will complete a written portfolio documenting their devising journey where they will need to demonstrate the processes, experimentation and decisions made for their performances, analysing their use of skills and techniques within their work. This component is internally marked and externally moderated and is completed in Year 10. Component 3 is a scripted unit where students will rehearse and perform 2 extracts from one performance text, demonstrating their understanding of the play, their character and how to portray this in performance. This component is marked by a visiting examiner.
KS5 <u>AQA A Level Specification</u>	KS5 Drama is designed to develop and apply an informed, analytical framework for making, performing, interpreting and understanding drama and theatre. It intends to allow students to: ❖ understand the place of relevant theoretical research in informing the processes and practices involved in creating theatre and the place of practical exploration in informing theoretical knowledge of drama and theatre ❖ develop an understanding and appreciation of how social, cultural and historical contexts of performance texts have influenced the development of drama and theatre ❖ understand the practices used in 21st century theatre making ❖ experience a range of opportunities to create theatre both published text-based and devised work ❖ participate as a theatre maker and as an audience member in live theatre ❖ understand and experience the collaborative relationship between various roles within theatre ❖ develop and demonstrate a range of theatre making skills ❖ develop the creativity and independence to become effective theatre makers ❖ adopt safe working practices as a theatre maker ❖ analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others. Component 1 is a written examination split into 3 sections. For section A, students are required to have a detailed knowledge of performance of Ancient Greek theatre, comparing this to designing for modern theatre, acting or directing for a contemporary audience Antigone by Sophocles. In section B students are required to study the set text Our Country's Good by Timberlake Wertenbaker, which they will explore both practically and theoretically. For section c, students watch and review a live theatre performance. Students will apply the knowledge they have gained in Key Stage 4 to analyse the effect of how theatre makers have come together to enhance each other and how drama skills have been used to make a success of the performance. Component 2 is a devising unit which requires students to work collaboratively in groups to create a performance with clear artistic intentions using a stimulus and practitioner as inspiration. Students will complete a written portfolio documenting their devising journey where they will need to demonstrate the processes, experimentation and decisions made for their performances, analysing their use of skills and techniques within their work. This component is internally marked and externally moderated.

Component 3 is a scripted unit where students will workshop two plays and prepare and perform a third extract for an examiner demonstrating the ideas and style of a theatre practitioner. This is accompanied by a working notebook of the process of an actor and the context and ideals of the playwright, in addition to the enhancement given by a suitable practitioner. This component is entirely marked by a visiting examiner.

Drama Curriculum Implementation

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 7	Introduction to Theatre and Drama ❖ Understanding the fundamentals of Drama. ❖ Exploring a range of drama skills and techniques and how these are used to create practical work ❖ Characterisation - applying skills ❖ Staging ❖ The role of a performer ❖ The role of the audience ❖ Basic improvisation ❖ Basic Plotline ❖ Rehearsal and development of work ❖ Application of skills to a performance	The Party - kindness and considering other lives ❖ Exploring a range of drama skills and techniques and how these are used to create practical work ❖ Basic mime and narration ❖ Using thought tracking to show subtext in developing an audience relationship ❖ Creating work from a stimulus (Basic devising) ❖ Using empathy to create believable characters ❖ Links with unit of work at GCSE level.	Live theatre review - Treasure Island analysis. ❖ Live Theatre Review ❖ Study of acting to communicate meaning ❖ Analysis of lighting design to impact performance ❖ Analysis of costume design and its communication to the audience ❖ Linking to creating characters with emotions in Autumn. ❖ Develop understanding of 'design'. ❖ Introduction to GCSE style writing Comp 1 Section C written examination. ❖ Develop skills of writing a	Introduction to Script - Ernie's Incredible Illusions by Alan Ayckbourn ❖ Understand the features and practices of working with a script ❖ Creating characters and understanding context. ❖ Analysis of scripts and how we interpret them making artistic decisions for performance ❖ Understanding a key text in its entirety and planning, rehearsing and performing an extract from within. ❖ Evaluating final performance focussing on the decisions made, the intent and the outcome. ❖ Links with unit of work at GCSE level	Greek Theatre - Where Theatre Began ❖ Ancient Greek theatre traditions ❖ Applying traditions to script ❖ Responding to direction ❖ Characterisation – acting using movement, rhythm and tempo, introducing timing, rhythm and pace change ❖ Ensemble physical work ❖ Applying Traditional Ancient Greek Theatre traditions to Antigone by Sophocles, creatively	Physical Theatre 1 ❖ Roles of actors considering physical theatre routes. ❖ Role of performer (Skills) ❖ Responding to direction ❖ Characterisation – acting using movement, rhythm and tempo, introducing musicality ❖ Ensemble physical work ❖ Applying a text to physical theatre work

			critical/evaluative theatre evaluation. ❖ Future Links Foundations for starting GCSE course.			
Year 8	Thriller/Horror Theatre ❖ Understand different Drama genres ❖ Understand elements of devising in a style ❖ Select appropriate skills for performance. ❖ Understand the context of the genre, typical characters, tension building. ❖ Use processes to create drama	Outsiders & discrimination in society ❖ What is it like to be treated differently through drama techniques (still image, thought track, movement and dialogue) ❖ Discussion on viewpoints and opinions of changes in opinions towards disability throughout history. ❖ Exploring a range of stimulus from real life scenarios (photographs, newspaper clippings, videos and speeches) ❖ Creating work with creative intentions. ❖ Developing analysis and evaluation skills throughout the scheme.	Advanced acting skills ❖ Exploring a range of advanced drama skills and techniques and how these are used to create practical work ❖ Use of stillness and silence ❖ Transition skills, between scenes and sections ❖ Creating atmosphere ❖ Creating work from a stimulus (advanced devising) ❖ Using empathy to create believable characters ❖ Links with unit of work at GCSE level.	Devils and Witches - devising & script work - The Crucible by Arthur Miller ❖ Following a story as an outline with a focus on building a clear and developed character ❖ Applying skills and techniques to take on different characters and explore storylines. ❖ Types and use of stimulus ❖ Research the role of performer ❖ Acting skills from script ❖ Practical exploration of ideas, adapting a script for performance ❖ Devising new Drama from a script	Advanced acting skills ❖ Exploring a range of advanced drama skills and techniques and how these are used to create practical work ❖ Use of stillness and silence ❖ Transition skills ❖ Using monologue and soliloquy developing subtext and dramatic irony to enhance an audience relationship ❖ Creating work from a stimulus (advanced devising) ❖ Using empathy to create believable characters ❖ Links with unit of work at GCSE level.	Devising from a stimulus ❖ Stimulus types and use - how these are analysed and used to create work ❖ Exploring ideas and techniques. ❖ Personal management skills - collaboration ❖ Meaning of work in relation to contextual influences - key themes and dramatic intentions of work. ❖ Application of skills to performance ❖ Evaluation of final performance.

Year 9	Introduction to Blood Brothers ❖ Cross Curricular links include: English - analysing and interpreting play text. History - an exploration of social, historical and political context of England/Liverpool 1960s/1980s. Other 'Arts' - sound, set, lighting & costume design. ❖ Analyse and explore the key themes of the play text. ❖ Explore the context of the play (social, cultural, historical, political). ❖ Learn how to write answers analysing acting and design, costume, set ❖ Explore the theme of social class/education. ❖ Re-cap staging types	Section B written tasks introduction: ❖ How to answer 4 mark and 8 mark questions ❖ How to self evaluate a performance ❖ Performance skills - bringing a play to life as a company ❖ Performance analysis & evaluation ❖ Cross curricular links include: English analysing and interpreting play texts & Citizenship/pastoral issues due to the subject matter of exploring underage drinking and its consequences. ❖ Skills developed include: students accessing and analysing play text ❖ Cross Curricular links: English analysing and evaluating through written word. ❖ Develop skills in understanding issues a play text presents/themes of	Commedia Dell'arte - theatrical style ❖ Mask work ❖ Mime ❖ Creating comedy ❖ Creating specific commedia characters ❖ Grammelot ❖ Historical and social links ❖ Typical Lazzi and street theatre styles	Live Theatre Review ❖ One Man Two Guvnors - study/Analysing Live theatre ❖ Students build on verbal evaluative and analytical skills developed at KS3 to review a live piece of theatre through written word. ❖ Section B Prior Links Linking KS3 knowledge to foundations of KS4 – building on KS3 Promoting enthusiasm, confidence and safe space. ❖ Linking to 'scripts' scheme of work in Year 8. Students have foundations of working with scripts from KS3 through script schemes & through writing in role exercises. ❖ Develop understanding of 'design'. ❖ Introduction to Section C aspect of Comp 1 written examination.	Advanced skills - devising using 'I don't like Mondays' ❖ Creating work from a variety of stimuli ❖ Create new work, including drama conventions/techniques ❖ Devising Project / Component 2 (Summer Term) Prior Links All devising practical work from KS3 and KS4 thus far culminates in students having necessary skills to develop a substantial piece of devised and original Drama. ❖ Cross Curricular links with many subjects across the school dependent on 'theme/issue/stimulus' allocated to each group. ❖ Key Content Develop skills of creating devised Drama. ❖ Develop skills in analysis and evaluation of their	Introduction to Component 3 - performance ❖ Using practitioners - Stanislavski, Berkoff & Frantic Assembly - to expand piece ❖ Understanding process of rehearsal and improvement through refining and critical engagement ❖ Assessed: Final Component 3 style performances at end of scheme of work. Structured in a similar way as exam in Year 11 – two extracts performed off text. ❖ Re-cap different styles and genres explored at KS3 and KS4 thus far. ❖ Writing a statement of dramatic intentions and performance aims
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		a play/how to interpret and perform script. ❖ How to analyse and explore characters/characterisation in play text.		❖ Develop skills of writing a critical/evaluative theatre evaluation. ❖ Future Links Foundations for starting GCSE course.	own work through a written Devising Log. ❖ Future Links: Students will have necessary skills to complete actual Component 2 examination in Spring Term of Year 10.	
Year 10	❖ Component 2 Responding to stimulus - a guide to devising Drama, using practitioner/stylised Drama to influence work, performance skills	❖ Component 2 - Devised & Log part 1 ❖ Teachers give checklist feedback as per examination board limit to feedback for non-examined assessments.	❖ Devised & Log Part 2 & 3 ❖ Performance of Component 2 & Written NEA completed (30% of final GCSE grade) completed.	❖ Component 1 - Revision & retrieval of Section A, B & C ❖ Section B focus - Blood Brothers and the Component 1 Section B examination. ❖ Section A retrieval ❖ Cross curricular links: English analysing and interpreting play text. ❖ History exploration of social, historical and political context of England/Liverpool 1960s/1980s. ❖ Collaboration with other theatre Arts: sound, set, lighting, costume design.	❖ Continued Component 1 - Revision & retrieval of Section A, B & C ❖ Section B focus - Students spent substantial lesson time in Year 9 learning the foundations of Blood Brothers and the Component 1 Section B examination. ❖ Section A is referred to in short, retrieval quizzes as a starter every lesson. (Section A multiple choice knowledge was also covered in Year 9.) ❖ Cross curricular links: English analysing and interpreting play text.	❖ Component 3 researching & reading suitable plays for performance unit ❖ Students explore at least three play texts all completely different styles/genres (Kindertransport, Bouncers, Curious Incident). ❖ Assessment: Final Component 3 performances at end of scheme of work. Structured in same way as exam in Year 11 – two extracts performed off text. Marked using exam criteria. ❖ Future Links: Students will sit the Component 3 examination in Year 11 which is worth

				❖ Continue to explore Blood Brothers practically with frequent reference and practice of the 4, 8, 12 and 20 marker written examination questions (with a specific focus on timed examination conditions). ❖ Students will have specific lessons on the social and historical context of the play and design elements. ❖ Assessed by: A complete Component 1 written examination covering Sections A, B and C. Structured exactly as 40% written examination will be in Year 11.	❖ History exploration of social, historical and political context of England/Liverpool 1960s/1980s. ❖ Collaboration with other theatre Arts: sound, set, lighting, costume design. ❖ Continue to explore Blood Brothers practically with frequent reference and practice of the 4, 8, 12 and 20 marker written examination questions (with a specific focus on timed examination conditions). ❖ Students will have specific lessons on the social and historical context of the play and design elements. ❖ Assessed by: A complete Component 1 written examination covering Sections A, B and C. Structured exactly as 40% written examination will be in Year 11.	20% of their GCSE grade.
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Year 11	❖ Texts in Practice / Component 3 (Spring Term) ❖ Read plays and make selection of two sections of one text to perform to an examiner. ❖ Cross Curricular links with many subjects across the school dependent on 'theme/issue/stimulus' within the text chosen by each group. ❖ Cross curricular links: English analysing and interpreting play text. ❖ Cross Curricular links: English analysing and evaluating through written word.	❖ Students begin working in their final examination performance groups for Comp 3 from Oct/Nov ❖ Revision of Material for Component 1 in preparation for Trial Exams ❖ Examination planned for February. Component 3 is 20% of GCSE grade.	❖ Component 1 Section A and Section B (Blood Brothers) ❖ Live Theatre Review / Component 1 Section C ❖ Retrieval of previous skills honed in Y10 ❖ Section A multiple choice knowledge was also covered in Year 9+10. ❖ Cross curricular links: English - analysing and interpreting play text. History - exploration of social, historical and political context of England/Liverpool 1960s-1980s. ❖ Collaboration with other theatre Arts: sound, set, lighting, costume design.	❖ Component 1 Exam practice & revision. Component 1 Section A and Section B (Blood Brothers) ❖ Live Theatre Review / Component 1 Section C ❖ Retrieval of previous skills honed in Y10 ❖ Section A multiple choice knowledge was also covered in Year 9+10. ❖ Cross curricular links: English - analysing and interpreting play text. History - exploration of social, historical and political context of England/Liverpool 1960s-1980s. ❖ Collaboration with other theatre Arts: sound, set, lighting, costume design.	❖ Component 1 Exam practice & revision. Component 1 Section A and Section B (Blood Brothers) ❖ Live Theatre Review / Component 1 Section C ❖ Retrieval of previous skills honed in Y10 ❖ Section A multiple choice knowledge was also covered in Year 9+10. ❖ Cross curricular links: English - analysing and interpreting play text. History - exploration of social, historical and political context of England/Liverpool 1960s-1980s. ❖ Collaboration with other theatre Arts: sound, set, lighting, costume design.	
Year 12	❖ Intro to Drama A-level ❖ Practitioner focus	❖ Continue to learn design keywords ❖ Revision of Costume, Lighting, Set design for Our Country's Good	❖ Studying Antigone by Sophocles ❖ How to prepare to act/direct/design Antigone	❖ Revision of Live Theatre Evaluation ❖ Creating & rehearsing devised performance (Component 2)	❖ Continue to Study Antigone by Sophocles ❖ How to prepare to act/direct/design Antigone	❖ Focus on Trial/UCAS exam ❖ Practice essay writing ❖ Continue to learn

	❖ Creating work with practitioner ❖ Introduction to Antigone set work ❖ Watch Live Theatre	❖ Watch Live Theatre & begin Evaluation work ❖ Practice essay writing ❖ Prepare for Component 2 Devised performance	❖ Learning Ancient Greek Theatre History ❖ Creating & rehearsing devised performance (Component 2) ❖ Continuing to write Working Notebook	❖ Continuing to write Working Notebook ❖ Perform Component 2	❖ Learning Ancient Greek Theatre History ❖ Practice essay writing ❖ Continue to learn design keywords ❖ Revision of Costume, Lighting, Set design for Our Country's Good ❖ Complete Mock Component 1	design keywords ❖ Revision of Costume, Lighting, Set design for Our Country's Good ❖ Start to prepare for Component 3, read play - TEXT ONE, study context & Playwright ❖ Pick section to workshop ❖ Write about context and process of approaching text as a Performer
Year 13	❖ Start to prepare for Component 3, read play - TEXT TWO, study context & Playwright ❖ Pick section to workshop ❖ Write about context and process of approaching text as a Performer ❖ Continue to prepare Component 1 Sec C Theatre Review ❖ Continue to prepare Component 1 Sec B responses for	❖ Start to prepare for Component 3, read play - TEXT THREE, study context & Practitioner ❖ Pick section to workshop ❖ Research practitioner using books, clips, live theatre, podcasts, interviews ❖ Write about context and process of approaching text as a Performer ❖ Continue to prepare	❖ Rehearse to performance standard of TEXT THREE, including in the style of a practitioner ❖ Complete the written report ❖ Perform TEXT THREE to an examiner, producing the written report of all three texts studied ❖ Continue to prepare Component 1 Sec C Theatre Review	❖ Revision: Continue to prepare Component 1 Sec C Theatre Review ❖ Revision: Continue to prepare Component 1 Sec B responses for Our Country's Good ❖ Revision: Continue to prepare for Trial exams Component 1 Sec A Antigone	❖ Revision: Continue to prepare Component 1 Sec C Theatre Review ❖ Revision: Continue to prepare Component 1 Sec B responses for Our Country's Good ❖ Revision: Continue to prepare for Trial exams Component 1 Sec A Antigone	

	Our Country's Good ❖ Continue to prepare for Trial exams Component 1 Sec A Antigone	Component 1 Sec C Theatre Review ❖ Continue to prepare Component 1 Sec B responses for Our Country's Good ❖ Continue to prepare for Trial exams Component 1 Sec A Antigone	❖ Continue to prepare Component 1 Sec B responses for Our Country's Good ❖ Continue to prepare for Trial exams Component 1 Sec A Antigone			
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[Link to Assessment Maps](#)

[2024 Drama KS3](#)

[2024 Drama KS4](#)

[2024 Drama KS5](#)