



Drama GCSE

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Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Head of Department
GCSE Drama	AQA	8261	Miss Cordell

Course Information Drama GCSE is an academic subject but includes plenty of practical work, making it a great option. 60% of the GCSE grade is based on practical performances and written coursework which really eases the pressure of those last few terms of Year 11.

Drama is a great subject for developing essential study and life skills which can be used across your school career – and beyond!

Skills/Aptitude Required We're looking for pupils who are willing to explore new ideas, are creative, good team players and keen to develop performance skills. There is a fair amount of writing involved (including a 2 hour written exam) so a good level of literacy is important.

Internal Assessment Component 3 (40%)
A devised piece performed & recorded in school with a written portfolio of coursework.

External Assessment Component 1 (40%)
Written Exam (1 hour 45 mins) taken at the end of Year 11.

Component 2 (20%)
Scripted scenes. Performed to a visiting AQA examiner.

The Course in Depth

Year 9 Topics Covered Year 9 builds skills and knowledge through two very practical projects:
1. A whole class production performed to an invited audience of family and friends.
2. A group Devising Theatre project, creating an original performance.

Year 10 Topics Covered Year 10 begins with an introduction to 3 styles of theatre:
• Naturalism
• Epic
• Physical Theatre

These are taught through a series of practical workshops. In the second half of the year we work on our first exam component – Devising Theatre worth 40% of the GCSE.

Year 11 Topics Covered There are 2 exam components to cover in Year 11:

2 Scripted Scenes
Performed to a visiting examiner.

The Written Exam
This is based on exploration of a set text (currently Blood Brothers) and a live theatre production we have watched.

Next Steps Drama GCSE is the perfect preparation for further study on our BTEC National Diploma programme, but is also a good basis for any subject or pathway requiring research, essay writing or 'real life' skills.

Future Careers "The UK's Creative Industries contribute almost £13 million to the UK economy every hour" Gov.uk (Feb 2020).

Studying Drama isn't just about wanting to be an actor or director, it prepares students for a whole host of career opportunities by equipping them with the skills and aptitude to succeed. Past students have gone on to successful careers in:

- Teaching
- Law
- Journalism
- Film
- Media Design
- PR
- Retail
- Museums
- Photography
- Therapy
- Psychology
- Events Management
- Theatre

"Arts education isn't something we add on after we've achieved other priorities, it's actually critical for achieving those priorities in the first place."

First Lady Michelle Obama