

GCSE Drama

Our core purpose at KS4 is to deliver an engaging, creative and challenging Drama curriculum through high-quality teaching and learning. We aim to give students the best opportunities to develop their confidence, creativity and performance skills, achieve the best possible outcomes in their GCSE examinations and become confident, collaborative and responsible members of the school and wider community.

We follow AQA GCSE Drama (8261), which provides students with the opportunity to explore Drama both practically and theoretically. Students develop their knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre, learning how meaning is created through performance, design and interpretation. The course provides a strong foundation for further academic and vocational study within Drama, Theatre and the Performing Arts.

The Drama curriculum allows students to build their performance, communication, collaboration and creative skills through practical workshops, rehearsal, devising and the exploration of a range of scripts and theatrical styles. Students are encouraged to become confident performers and reflective learners, developing their ability to analyse and evaluate both their own work and the work of others. Where possible, students also experience live theatre to develop their understanding of professional performance.

Throughout KS4, students work towards the three components of the AQA GCSE Drama course: Understanding Drama, which includes the study of a set play and live theatre; Devising Drama, where students create and develop an original piece of theatre; and Texts in Practice, where students rehearse and perform extracts from a published play. The curriculum is structured to develop students' knowledge and practical skills progressively, preparing them for both the written and practical elements of their GCSE

The subject content details the knowledge, understanding and skills that students are expected to develop throughout the course of study. The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components:

1. Understanding drama
2. Devising drama
3. Texts in practice

Component 1: Understanding drama

What's assessed

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of one set play from a choice of nine
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Open book
- 80 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Questions

- Section A: multiple choice (4 marks)
- Section B: four questions on a given extract from the set play chosen (44 marks)
- Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (32 marks)

Component 2: Devising drama (practical)

What's assessed

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)
- Analysis and evaluation of own work

How it's assessed

- Devising log (60 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 80 marks in total
- 40% of GCSE

This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)

What's assessed

- Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer)
- Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1

How it's assessed

- Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks) and Extract 2 (20 marks)
- 40 marks in total
- 20% of GCSE

This component is marked by AQA.

Learning through Experiences in Drama

In order to enhance the provision of Drama beyond the curriculum, our students benefit from the following experiences:

- Christmas show
- Theatre Trips
- Summer show
- Exam sharing event
- Industry closed auditions
- Workshops and visits from industry specialists
- LAMDA/Arts Award Examinations
- Arts programme

