St Benedict's Sixth Form

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

Course Description

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies provides students with the opportunity to gain experience in performance, devising and to develop critical and analytical thinking about drama and theatre as an art form. Students will work as a group and devise a thematic piece of theatre in the light of an influential practitioner to develop abstract and non-naturalistic drama.

Students will also perform a scripted performance text, gaining deeper understanding of how theatre works and perform a monologue or duologue from a contrasting key extract. Students will study two complete performance texts, one from a director's perspective and another in light of a practitioner focusing on a contemporary audience. There will also be plenty of opportunities to see live theatre from a range of styles, to influence and inspire their practical work. This will enable them to develop analytical and evaluative skills in order to review the performance they have seen.

Skills Attained

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies students can expect a really broad experience developing their knowledge and understanding as a performer, director or designer whilst exploring a range of performance styles and forms. A key aspect of the course is the exploration of a range of theatre practitioners and their influence on performance. The course will engage students through encouraging creativity, focusing on practical work which reflects 21st-century theatre practice and developing skills that will support progression to further study of drama and a wide range of other subjects. Writing exercises throughout the course prepare the students for being able to answer extended questions to prepare them for essay writing and developing literacy in terms of drama and theatre-specific terminology. Students will also develop their performance skills throughout the two years of exploration, exploring the styles of existing practitioners in order to develop a personal performance style.

Assessment

The two year course is split over three components:

Component 1 – Devising (40%): Create an original performance inspired by a theatre practitioner and complete a portfolio.

Component 2 – Text in Performance (20%): Perform a group piece and a monologue or duologue, assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component 3 – Written Exam (40%): A 2-hour 30-minute exam covering live theatre analysis, a studied play and a contrasting text linked to a practitioner.





Progression

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies develops a valuable combination of practical, creative and academic skills, opening doors to a wide range of university courses and career opportunities. Students have progressed to study Drama, Acting, Law, English, History, Psychology, Sociology, Nursing and Teaching, demonstrating the versatility of this qualification.

The course provides an excellent foundation for further study at university or specialist drama schools, including opportunities to work with professional theatre companies and industry practitioners. Beyond the performing arts, the skills gained are highly valued across a diverse range of careers, including law, education, healthcare, business, marketing, media, journalism, public relations, management and the creative industries.

Through performance, collaboration and critical analysis, students develop confidence, creativity, leadership, teamwork and problem-solving skills. They learn to communicate effectively, present ideas confidently, manage deadlines, respond to feedback and work successfully under pressure.

These transferable skills are highly valued by employers, preparing students to become confident communicators, creative thinkers, adaptable professionals and effective team members, equipped to succeed in a wide range of future pathways.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE Drama or previous drama ability and experience, enthusiasm and commitment.

Exam Board: Edexcel

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