

# GCSE Drama

## What will I learn?

"All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players" - William Shakespeare

You will learn how drama is created, including all the acting and staging skills that are needed to put a piece of drama on to the stage. You will learn how to create a character and play this character in a performance.

You will also learn many other skills that are highly valued in any walk of life. These include teamwork and confidently presenting yourself in public.

Still, there is far more that Drama can do. At the centre of all Drama is **COMMUNICATION**. Like all the arts, Drama allows you to communicate with and understand others in new ways. Perhaps more than any other art form, Drama also provides training in the very **PRACTICAL** aspects of communication so necessary in today's increasingly information-centred world. Students who have participated in Dramatic activities are less likely to have difficulty **SPEAKING IN PUBLIC**, you will be more **PERSUASIVE** in your communications, both written and oral, you will be better able to put yourself into others' shoes and relate to them, and you will have a more **POSITIVE, CONFIDENT SELF IMAGE**. Participation in Dramatic activity requires **SELF CONTROL** and **DISCIPLINE** that will serve you well in all aspects of life. In Drama you will learn to **WORK TOGETHER**, to cooperate, to find the best way for each member of a group to contribute, and to listen to and accept the viewpoints and contributions of others. **NO ART FORM IS MORE TRULY COLLABORATIVE**. Drama is an important tool for preparing you to live and work in a world that is increasingly **TEAM-ORIENTED** rather than hierarchical.

## What do I need to know before I can start the course?

You have had experience of drama during Key Stage 3 in drama lessons and, perhaps, in English lessons. You may also be a member of a drama club. Any of these experiences can help if you choose drama as a GCSE subject. You will develop your improvisation and acting skills to a higher level. You will also look at plays in more detail and at different ways of bringing a script to life on stage. If you are more interested in the technical aspects of drama (for example set design or lighting) you could focus on these for part of the course. There is a requirement for you **PERFORM** to an audience and there is a written examination.

## What does the course involve?

**Component 1: Devising** - *Devise a piece of theatre and keep a portfolio* = 40% (internal assessment)

**Component 2: Performance from a Text** - *Perform in or design for two extracts from a text* = 20% (external examiner)

**Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice** - *Choice of set text practically explored and evaluation of live theatre* = 40% (1hr 30minutes **WRITTEN EXAM**)

## What can I do after the course? What careers will this course be useful for?

After you have completed GCSE Drama you can go on to higher levels of study. These include:

GCE Drama and Theatre Studies at AS and A2 Level

BTEC Performing Arts

The following are the careers you could have

Actor/actress, Stage Manager, Arts administrator, Drama teacher, Drama therapist, Television production assistant, Radio presenter, Theatre director, Lawyer, Barrister, Teacher, Doctor, Dancer, Lighting Designer, Costume Designer, Police Force, Child Care, Shop Assistant, Social Worker, Hotelier, Waitress, Nurse, Counsellor, Musician, Personnel Manager, Staff Recruitment, Estate Agent, Holiday Rep, Salesman, Armed Forces, Television Presenter, Reporter, Theatre Manager, Box Office Clerk, Front of House Manager, Backstage Assistant, Prop and Scenery Designer, Make-up Artist, Youth Worker...the list is endless, BASICALLY in any job that requires you to talk to someone, you'll find Drama an asset!

## Who can I talk to for more information?

Miss Harrison

## What websites can I check out?

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/drama-2016.html>

<http://www.pearsonschoolsandcolleges.co.uk/Secondary/Drama/14-16/EdexcelGCSE91DRAMA2016/EdexcelGCSE9-1DRAMA2016.aspx>

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/showthread.php?t=386999>