

AQA GCSE Drama (Spec: 8261)

What will I learn on this course?

GCSE Drama is a creative course that offers the opportunity to explore drama as a practical art form in which ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience. You will create, perform and respond to drama whilst also developing an understanding and knowledge of how a play text is structured, interpreted and formed on stage.

You will learn to express yourself, collaborate with others, think analytically and effectively and develop your imagination, becoming more confident in your own ideas, as well as reflecting on others. This course will provide you with a toolkit of transferable skills, that you can apply to the workplace or further study. This course will interest students who have already been involved in Key Stage 3 Drama and taken part in productions either in or out of school.

How is the course structured?

The course is divided into **three** components:

- 1 – Understanding Drama (40%)** – You will develop your knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre by studying a chosen play text and by visiting a live theatre performance. This will be assessed through a written examination.
- 2 – Devising Drama - Practical (40%)** – You will learn how to create and develop ideas, communicating meaning in a devised theatrical performance. You will complete a devising log, rehearse as a group and perform to an audience.
- 3 – Texts in Practice - Practical (20%)** – You will use your acting skills and techniques to interpret and perform two extracts from a chosen play text.

How will I study?

You will be expected to work as part of a team as Drama involves lots of group work. You will use drama techniques to creatively explore a variety of themes, developing both devised and scripted performances and you will enhance your practical exploration of voice and movement skills. You will have the opportunity to create your own Drama as well as interpreting plays written by other people. You will be required to understand Drama and theatre terminology and how to use it appropriately in written analysis and evaluation, as this will prepare you for the written examination paper. You will also be expected to complete research, rehearsal and devising logs and review a live piece of theatre.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Drama gives every student as much opportunity as possible to participate in performances and you will therefore be assessed on your ability to create and devise drama, as well as interpret and take a role in two performance extracts. The written examination paper allows every student the chance to realise their full potential and you will be assessed on a variety of question styles so that you can demonstrate what you have learned about how drama is performed, using your practical experience and imagination.