

The Drama Department

The aim of the drama lesson is to help pupils understand themselves and the world they live in. The drama teacher sets up situations within which they can discover why people behave the way as they do, so they can reflect on their own behaviour.

A secondary aim of drama is for pupils to achieve understanding of and satisfaction from the medium of drama, since this is by which means the primary aim is achieved.

The Content of the Key Stages

Key Stage 3

During the course of Key stage 3 drama lessons, pupils learn many new skills and techniques which are used to enhance their learning. Skills developed include still images, monologues, thought tracking and many more. These skills are then enhanced and developed at Key stage 4 and Key stage 5.

Key Stage 3 drama is taught in mixed ability classes, once a fortnight. Lessons focus on themes based issues such as bullying and teenage crime, all of which are designed to develop pupils' drama and performance techniques.

At the end of every term pupils are assessed in the three areas of making drama, performing drama and responding to drama. These are practical assessments and offer pupils an opportunity to show their understanding of creating and performing drama. As well as being assessed by the teacher pupils also self evaluate.

Key Stage 4 (GCSE)

At GCSE level students follow the WJEC Drama syllabus. Students are taught over a period of five lessons per fortnight. Drama skills are further built upon and subject specific knowledge developed.

During the course of the two years students partake in several performance evenings to enhance their performance skills in both devising and script work.

Assessment is in the form of two practical performances, written coursework and an external written paper.

Key Stage 5 (AS/A2 Level)

At A level students follow the Edexcel Drama and Theatre Studies course. Students are taught over a period of nine lessons per fortnight. Students study drama from the point of view of actors, directors and designers. Assessment takes the form of continuous assessment and external written and practical examinations.

During the course of the year the Drama Department offers many theatre trips to enhance and support pupils' learning. Recent trips include Grease, Romeo and Juliet, Oedipus, Wicked and Blood Brothers.