

<b>Subject:</b>	Drama
<b>Level:</b>	GCSE
<b>Awarding Body:</b>	AQA
<b>Specification Code:</b>	8261
<b>Awarding Body website:</b>	<a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261">http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261</a>
<b>ASSESSMENT:</b>	
Controlled Assessment %:	40%
When will it be taken?	Spring and Summer term of Y10, Autumn term of Y11
Examination %:	60%
When will it be sat?	May/June at the end of Year 11
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### Description

This is an incredibly popular and successful course within a department that consistently achieves outstanding results and has a reputation for securing student success. Throughout the GCSE course, there is a focus on developing core drama skills, rooted in both practical and theoretical understanding of professional theatre. There are three components of study; students' marks in these areas form their overall GCSE grade. The 3 components provide students with a solid foundation in creative, practical, analytical and performance skills. Students engage with, and explore, a wide range of stimulating and creative activities that are designed to provide an enriching curriculum, encouraging students' individual talents and nurturing their love of learning and theatre.

### What will I learn?

#### **Component 1** - Written Paper – 80 marks – 40% of GCSE

- Section A – Multiple choice questions about the role of theatre makers within production.
- Section B – Four questions on a given extract from a play studied practically in lessons.
- Section C – Analysis and evaluation of a live theatre production seen during the course.

#### **Component 2** - Devising Drama – 80 marks - 40% of GCSE

Students work in groups to devise their own original piece of theatre based on a stimulus given to them in lessons. There are two elements of assessment:

- Final presentation of an original piece of theatre.
- A portfolio charting the journey of the devising process.

#### **Component 3** –Texts in Practice – 40 marks – 20% of GCSE

Students perform two extracts from one play. They will work in groups to develop an excellent performance, showcasing their theatrical technique. The texts will be chosen by class teachers to facilitate students' areas of interest or talent. For this exam, students can choose to be assessed on set or costume design instead of performing. If they choose this, they will design and create a set or costume for one of the students who are performing.

### How will I be assessed

- Component 2 is teacher assessed and externally moderated.
- Components 1 and 3 are marked externally by AQA.

### **What are the costs?**

The course requires students to see live theatre performance. Therefore, they will attend at least two performances a year at a professional theatre and are asked to pay for the cost of the trip.

### **Future Opportunities**

GCSE Drama encourages students to develop critical thinking skills and become effective and independent learners. With the focus on working imaginatively, collaborating creatively and communicating effectively; GCSE Drama provides a solid foundation for all careers and further areas of study.

Students who opt for GCSE drama in 2024 will be afforded the following opportunities:

- Back stage tour of the Shakespeare North Playhouse.
- Visit, talk and demonstration from a professional costume designer.
- Theatre trip to see a professional production of Blood Brothers.
- Theatre trip to see an exciting production for us to analyse the design elements for our GCSE exam.
- Trip to a local college to experiment with and use the technical equipment. In 2023, this included lights, sound and a full television/media suite.
- Opportunity to audition for the National Theatre Connections project.
- School productions.
- We are also considering a residential trip to London but this is very much in the early stage of discussion.