



GCSE Drama

Key contacts: Mr S Ellis

Exam Board: Eduqas (WJEC in England)

Overview of the course:

GCSE Drama is all about exploring, developing and evaluating the techniques and skills required to create drama on the stage. As a student of Drama, you can expect to consider dramatic texts from the point of view of an actor, director and a designer. In doing so, you will have the opportunity to devise your own piece of drama as well as explore and present dramatic texts written and produced by others. The study of Drama is both practical and creative, and this course will equip you with the theoretical understanding needed in order to maximise your creative potential.

What will you study?

Component 1: Devising Theatre (40%)

Internally assessed in the summer term of Year 10

- Creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or theatrical style, in response to a set stimulus.
- Creative Log: portfolio of evidence detailing how the piece was developed (900 words).
- A written evaluation of the final performance or design, completed as a word-processed Controlled Assessment.

Component 2: Performing from a Text (20%)

Externally assessed in February or March of Year 11.

- Participate either as an actor or designer to present two extracts from one play text to a visiting examiner.
- Component 2 is an almost entirely practical assessment with the exception of the completion of a very small 150-word "Artistic Intentions" form.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre (40%)

90-minute written examination in the summer of Year 11. Component 3 features as the culmination of the course, examined in two distinct sections:

Section A (45 marks)

- A series of questions related to a set text, which will be either *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare, or *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestley.
- You will be prepared practically to answer the questions from the point of view of an actor, director and designer.
- You will gain an understanding of the themes, form, style and context of the play, and develop ideas for how you might interpret the play to communicate meaning to a contemporary audience.

Section B (15 marks)

- A single long-answer question, to evaluate a professional piece of live theatre that you will witness during the course, in which you will identify and analyse the ways meaning was communicated by the production company.
- As part of the wider preparation for Section B, and also to enrich your learning of the subject in general, you will witness live at least one professional theatrical production in each year of study.

Will the course be suitable for you?

You may or may not have been involved in theatrical productions before, but have enjoyed exploring topics and gaining skills through Drama at Key Stage 3. You will excel on this course if you enjoy collaborating with others, are interested in exploring challenging issues in a creative yet focused manner. Most importantly, you must have a genuine interest in the subject and a willingness to participate in practical lessons.

Extra-Curricular and Drama Enrichment

As part of the course, you will be expected to organise and conduct practical rehearsals with other students outside of lesson times, particularly in the run-up to practical assessments.

During the course, you can expect to have at least one theatre trip and one Drama workshop in each academic year, and we would encourage you to watch as much live theatre as possible.

An important feature of the Department is our Enrichment provision, which includes the Whole College Musical Production, Performing Arts Show, Spotlight Senior Theatre Company, Musical Theatre Group (MTG) and our Technical Theatre Group. In addition, there is the opportunity to study for additional LAMDA qualifications to supplement your learning. You are encouraged to take advantage of these fantastic opportunities.

Possible career path:

Drama is a wonderful subject to study, because the nature of the subject is that, as well as acquiring the specific skills involved in creating and performing Drama, you will also acquire skills in working with others, problem solving and communication in verbal and written form. Studying Drama can help you feel more self-confident and prepare you to deal with a range of different situations and people. In addition, you will be exposed to challenging issues that confront contemporary society, raising your awareness of a range of topics. As such, the study of GCSE Drama is challenging but highly rewarding choice for any student who is engaged and motivated by the subject.

Onward Progression

Your serious study of Drama will develop vital transferable skills you can take into any career or job. Potential non-Drama fields that would benefit from study of the subject include careers in medicine, retail, law and law enforcement, travel and tourism, sales and marketing or indeed any career that involves interacting with people face to face.

If you do wish to pursue your Drama education you could go on to take an A Level in Drama and Theatre, BTEC qualifications in Performing Arts, both of which are offered at the College. Thereafter, you may study Degrees or Diplomas in the subject. The Drama Department at Ivybridge Community College are extremely proud to have an outstanding record of our students progressing to the finest Drama schools in the world. Focus and work hard in Drama, and the world is your oyster!