

Course highlights:

GCSE Drama is an energetic, enthusiastic and supportive course which offers students the opportunity to act, direct and design for the purposes of theatre. The main purpose of this qualification is to allow learners to study drama in an academic setting, interrogating this art form and applying their knowledge and understanding to the process of creating and developing drama and to their own performance work. It will prepare learners for the further study of Drama or Performing Arts courses as well as developing transferable skills desired by further education, higher education and employers in all sectors of industry. Our specification will help create independent learners, critical thinkers and effective decision makers – all personal attributes that can make them stand out as they progress through their education and into employment. OCR's GCSE (9–1) in Drama provides a fantastic curriculum to ignite and engage learners' creativity, passion and interests. The non-exam assessment allows learners to explore their own interests and develop their skills in either performance or design. It also provides freedom for learners to experiment and take risks with their work while developing their own style. There are no set texts in our 'presenting and performing texts' component in our GCSE (9–1) Drama specification. Our view is that teachers should have freedom to choose the texts which, in their professional opinion, are best suited to their learners. Our specification has been designed in conjunction with a wide range of teachers from differing backgrounds to ensure an inclusive specification has been created to allow all learners to achieve their potential. We have looked closely at creating assessments which stem from teaching and learning and the study of drama, ensuring that the focus is on what is best for the learner, making this the central priority.

OCR's GCSE (9–1) in Drama will encourage learners to:

- Apply knowledge and understanding of drama when making, performing and responding to drama.
- Explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created (a performance text is one that has been written specifically for theatrical performance).
- Develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performances.
- Work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas.
- Develop as creative, effective, independent and reflective students able to make informed choices in process and performance.
- Contribute as an individual to a theatrical performance.
- Reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others.
- Develop an awareness and understanding of the roles and processes undertaken in contemporary professional theatre practice.
- Adopt safe working practices.

Learning styles used:

As well as acquiring the skills involved in creating, performing and responding in drama, students will also be able to develop skills in working with others, problem solving, teamwork and communication. Students will find that drama will help them feel more self-confident and prepare them to manage a range of different situations and people.

How is it assessed?

Components	% of final grade
<u>Unit 1: Devising Drama</u> Learners will research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama.	30%
<u>Unit 2: Presenting and Performing Texts</u> Learners develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text.	30%
<u>Unit 3: Drama Performance and Response</u> Learners will explore practically a performance text to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama through a written response. Learners will additionally analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.	40%

Other Information:

Stimuli explored can include sensitive and thought provoking topic areas and language. All material is age appropriate.

The work consists of practical workshops and presentations, mostly small group performances and sometimes individual work. Written coursework is an individual response. The written examination will be based on one play explored throughout the two years and a written analysis of a live theatre show. Students are expected to attend all live theatre shows.

Sixth form pathways & careers available from this course: Our course lays a solid foundation for students to excel in further education. Many successful students have subsequently gone on to take degrees in Drama, Music, English Literature and Language, Law, Teaching, Psychology, Criminology and Film.

Employability Skills: Drama offers a cohesive and unique range of transferable skills which can be taken into any career or job. In Drama we aim to build students' confidence and communication skills, teach them ways of self-managing and motivating others, help them become reflective learners, and develop as critical thinkers and creative inquisitors. These skills will make students desirable for all jobs, particularly jobs in areas such as marketing and management, journalism, the media, performing arts, retail, travel and tourism, sales and public speaking.

Course combinations:

This course complements GCSE English, GCSE Music and GCSE Art & Design.

Please see one of your **Drama Teachers** to discuss this course.