

## Drama Department

The department currently consists of four members of staff, two of which are LAMDA teachers. In such a successful academic school, which aims to produce active citizens in the changing world, students need to be equipped with the creativity, confidence and empathy to adapt and lead in an unknown environment. Through Drama we aim to equip students with these personal traits in a practical and enjoyable setting. We aim to nurture and encourage both exceptional students heading towards a career in the industry as well as those whose ambition lies elsewhere. We are very proud of our GCSE and A Level grades, with excellent results last year. We are very passionate about our subject and are willing to rehearse with students after school in the build up to practical exams. We also offer GCSE and A Level written work support at lunch times in order to stretch pupils to achieve top band in the theoretical side of the course. In line with the exam specifications, we run a GCSE and two A Level theatre trips a year. We also take students to the V & A museum to watch archived performances. To encourage enthusiasm in the subject we organise other theatre trips throughout the year for all year groups, as well as workshops with professional theatre practitioners. We usually put on two drama showcases a year, one with our older pupils and one with our KS3 Drama club. We currently have 70 students taking LAMDA lessons and our school is set up as a LAMDA exam centre. LAMDA students also have the opportunity to perform in our showcases. We also run a House Drama competition every year: an improvisation battle.

All KS3 lessons, and most KS4 and KS5 lessons are taught in a spacious Drama Studio with access to a computer, projector, raised stage and lighting equipment. There is an option to be re-roomed to have access to desks for written lessons and IT rooms can be booked through a central booking system.

In KS3, Drama is taught in form groups who have one hour lessons every other week. We have comprehensive schemes of work and sequenced lesson plans which are regularly updated to ensure students meet the assessment points across the year. There is a primary focus on practical work in years 7, 8 and 9, with various written tasks in pre-printed Drama booklets for students to work through in lessons and for homework in order to introduce the theoretical side of GCSE drama in KS3.

With pupils having completed KS3 at the end of year 9, students can choose Drama as a GCSE option. We were a popular subject last year and currently have 2 year 10 classes and 2 year 11 classes. Students have 5 lessons a fortnight in year 10, which is reduced to 4 lessons a fortnight in years 11. We continue to build on the skills learnt at KS3 with a focus on the AQA Drama GCSE. For the written exam we focus on *Noughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman and adapted by Dominic Cooke. For the scripted component we focus on a variety of different play texts, choosing ones that will suit our pupils, and are open to suggestions which would expand the plays we are able to offer our students. It is a requirement of the course that we take students to see a live theatre production which is then taught in lessons, and this changes on a yearly basis depending on what suitable productions there are on offer. The practitioners we teach are Frantic Assembly and Bertolt Brecht and we expect students to devise their Component 2 Coursework in the style of one of these theatre makers. There are comprehensive schemes of work, lesson plans and resources available for every aspect of the GCSE course.

We have a healthy uptake of the subject at A Level and teach Edexcel Drama and Theatre Studies. We have one year 12 class and one year 13. For the devised unit we study *pool(no water)* and the practitioner Frantic Assembly. For the written exam we study *Equus* by Peter Shaffer in year 12. In year 13 *Woyzeck* by Georg Büchner is studied alongside the practitioner Brecht. It is a requirement of the course that we take students to see a live theatre production which is then taught in lessons, and this changes on a yearly basis depending on what suitable productions there are on offer. There are comprehensive schemes of work, lesson plans and resources available for every aspect of the A Level course. Help making lesson plans and resources for the live theatre production studied will be appreciated once we have settled on the production that will be seen.

Varied teaching strategies are actively encouraged for all year groups. Group work is a regular part of lessons at all levels. The department encourages the use of news stories and parallels between set texts and modern life to develop empathy and understanding. We have integrated Assessment for Learning at all levels and require pupils to review and redraft their own work with a focus on assessment criteria.

**We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed Head of Department who enjoys working as part of a team, relishes the challenge posed by able pupils and is keen to be involved in the organisation of and implementation of extra-curricular activities. Experience teaching the AQA Drama GCSE and the Edexcel Drama A Level, as well as knowledge of Frantic Assembly and Brecht would be welcomed, as would the ability to offer a contribution to the continuing development of resources and teaching strategies.**