

A level Drama and Theatre

Introduction – an outline of the course

Welcome to A level Drama and Theatre. During your time in the Sixth form you will build upon and develop the skills that you have developed in Key Stage 4 as an actor, director and designer. One of the biggest differences between GCSE and A level Drama is the study of theatre practitioners which will inform and influence your work particularly in Component 1: Devising and Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice.

There are three components in A level Drama and Theatre.

Component 1 – Devising. This NEA component is internally moderated by the department and externally moderated by an examiner and worth 40% of your final grade.

- A group devised performance - stimulus is an extract from a published play and your work must be influenced by a chosen practitioner
- Practical performance in your devised piece = 10% of your grade 20/80 marks
- Written portfolio = 30% of your grade 60/80 marks
- Portfolio is similar to the one you completed at GCSE with 6 questions but this time the word count is 2500-3000 words
- You will start this unit in January of Year 12 and have completed this unit by the end of Year 12.

Component 2 – Text in Performance. This is externally moderated by a visiting examiner. You will perform two pieces from two different texts. This component is worth 20% of your final grade.

- A monologue or a duologue 40% of C2 24/60 marks
- A group scripted performance 60% of C2 36/60 marks
- Assessed by an external examiner in March of Year 13

Component 3 – Theatre Makers in Practice. This is an external written exam lasting 2.5 hours which asks you to write as a theatre critic, director, actor and designer. You will study two set texts, one in Year 12 and one in Year 13. This component is worth 40% of your final grade.

- Section A – Theatre Review question on a piece of live theatre you have been to see.
- Section B – two questions on an extract from *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell.
- Section C – one question on *Antigone* by Sophocles.

The A level grade that you will receive is based on your performance over the three components.

What will we be studying in the first half of the term?

In September you will start the first of your set text – *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell. You will develop your knowledge and understanding of the social, cultural and historical background to the play and explore the play as an actor and designer.

You will also begin to explore through a series of workshop lessons a number of key practitioners for example: Stanislavski, Brecht, Artuad and Boal as well as contemporary theatre companies and directors such as Punchdrunk, Frantic Assembly and Katie Mitchell.

What can I do that will help me prepare for A level Drama and Theatre?

One of the important ways that you can prepare is to make sure that you are familiar with key terms for performance skills and design elements. Do you know your gobos from your parcans? Do you know what

diegetic and non-diegetic sound is? Do you know the difference between intonation and enunciation? Use your knowledge organisers from GCSE to recap on this information.

Reading plays from different genres and time periods will also help deepen your knowledge and understanding as well as watching as much theatre (either live or recorded) as possible!

Summer Gap Task and where to find this

The best way to prepare for your A level Drama and Theatre is to complete the summer gap task that has been set.

On the [school website](#), if you click on Sixth Form and follow the list until you see Year 11 into 12 Gap Tasks. Click on this and find the Drama Gap task which is a PDF booklet. Doing the research on key practitioners will help you be able to explore their ideas more easily in practical lessons in September.

You will also find the log in details for the National Theatre online so you can watch amazing theatre from the comfort of your own home! Ditch the Netflix and go to NT online!

You don't have to complete this work in one go. Why not wait until you have a rainy day?

We are really looking forward to seeing you in September and working with you so that you achieve your goals and aspirations. ☺

