

Actor, Designer, Playwright, Critic or Director. If any of these roles describe you, then this course is that first step into the creative and expressive world of Drama and Theatre.



Are you interested in:

- performing
- creative arts and media
- society and culture
- self-expression

Leading to a career in:

- performing arts
- media, film and television
- teaching
- professional acting

Teacher to contact:

Mr L Parry

Exam Board: Edexcel

A-level

Component 1: Devising

Students will explore an extract from a published play with specific reference to a Theatre Practitioner or Theatre maker. Following this class activity, in pairs or groups you will create an original piece of Theatre, either as a performer or designer and present it to an audience, lasting between 10 to 35 minutes.

Throughout the process, you will record your developing work in a portfolio of 2,500 to 3000 words. The work will be internally observed, documented and assessed by your Drama teacher.

Component 2: Text in Performance

This unit gives you the chance to demonstrate your acting skills in two performances.

The first performance you must offer is either a monologue or duologue. The second performance requires you to contribute to the performance of a professionally published Play, chosen with your Drama Teacher and cast from your class. The performance typically lasts 30 minutes. Each performance is accompanied by 500 words of Performance Intention – what you plan to show in performance and the skills you will use.

A visiting Examiner externally assesses these performances typically in late March of the examination year.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

The final written exam of the course is a 2½ hour exploration of 3 areas of study:

- a) Live Theatre Evaluation – supported by 500 words of notes
- b) 2 questions on a Play studied during the course – an extract is provided
- c) Your Performance Concept of a single set text (Play) – texts can be taken into the exam

Component	% of A-Level
1	40%
2	20%
3	40%



The Drama Department aims to place practical focus at the heart of your studies.

During your course you will explore a range of set texts designed to help you articulate academically and practically, the ways that you would prepare roles for performance. Even for set examination texts, you will need to have experience in performing these plays to an audience, in order to answer the questions on the published paper. At least 2 full performances will enable you to achieve and express your artistic ability as an actor or as a designer.

Throughout the course we will focus on the theatre-making process and the correct use of terminology to ensure that you understand how to create, develop and critique your ideas for performance.

It will be a requirement that students attempt to regularly visit the Theatre and participate in discussions and reviews. Whilst the Drama department will ensure that suitable performance trips are arranged, higher achieving students will be independently organising visits of their own.

Students participate in and make a fantastic contribution to the whole school Musical, which brings together the College, and main School pupils, with performances that have included Sweeney Todd, Les Misérables, Grease and Heathers. The College students have often taken primary roles in these productions, both on stage and providing the technical support needed. The Drama Department also offers in depth and intensive audition workshops for those students hoping to attend a Drama School or course after their A Level studies; 95% of our students have gone on to their first choice Drama schools in the last 3 years.

Finally, students are invited to participate in the National Theatre 'New Views' project. An annual playwriting festival, New Views includes workshops on playwriting with your Drama teachers, a visiting Playwright from the National Theatre – a visit to the see a production and finally the submission of an original play to the National Theatre.