



Drama and Theatre

Course Information

This is a double award course. The AS and the A level are taught separately, each for one year. The A level will not be available for examination until summer 2018.

The AS course comprises two components - Exploration and Performance and Theatre Makers in Practice.

The A level comprises three components - Devising, Text in Performance and Theatre Makers in Practice.

The aim of this course is to encourage students to:

- develop an interest and enjoyment in Drama and Theatre, both as participants and informed members of an audience, fostering an enthusiasm for and critical appreciation of the subject;
- develop an understanding and appreciation of the significance of social, cultural and historical influences of the development of Drama and Theatre;
- experience a range of opportunities to develop a variety of dramatic and theatrical skills, enabling them to grow creatively and imaginatively in both devised and scripted work;
- integrate theory and practice through their understanding of critical concepts, using specialist terminology.

Although this is largely a practical course, students will keep a detailed folder of work. This will support written work throughout the two years. Written and/or visual work, under controlled conditions, will be completed after component 1 at AS and component 1 at A2. Pre-prepared notes may be taken into the controlled assessments.



Course Content

AS - Component 1 – Exploration and Performance (60% of AS)

The group will perform a key extract from a performance text selected by the centre. Additionally, a monologue or duologue will be performed from a different performance text. This is internally assessed and externally moderated. When this work has been completed, students will need to create a portfolio of supporting evidence. This can either be in written form, recorded form or a combination of both.

AS – Component 2 – Theatre Makers in Practice (40% of AS)

This involves the study of a complete performance text, selected from six offered by the examination board. Additionally, students will attend a variety of live Theatre productions and notes will be kept after each performance seen. This is assessed by an externally set examination questions – 1 hour 45 minutes

A2 – Component 1 – Devising (40% of A2)

The group will be divided into smaller groups and create an original performance piece using a performance text and practitioner chosen by the centre. The work will be internally assessed and externally moderated. When the work has been completed, students need to create a portfolio of supporting evidence. This can either be in written form, recorded form or a combination of both.

A2 – Component 2 – Text in Performance (20% of A2)

This will be in the form of a group performance of one key extract from a performance text selected by the centre. Additionally, a monologue or duologue will be performed, selected from a different performance text. This work will be performed to an invited audience and assessed by a visiting examiner.

A2 – Component 3 – Theatre Makers in Practice (40% of A2)

This written examination – 2 hours 30 minutes – will be completed under formal examination conditions. The areas of study, leading up to the examination are:

A: A live theatre evaluation selected from a number of Theatre trips

B: The study of a full length performance text selected by the centre from a number offered by the examination board.

C: The study of a second, contrasting performance text in light of a selected practitioner.

Sections B and C will be focus on how a text could be reimagined or realised for performance.

Entry Requirements

It is helpful, but not essential, to have studied Drama at GCSE. Absolute commitment, good attendance and desire to work in a disciplined, practical way is vital. You will need to attend a number of theatre trips and write reviews. To ensure you are able to access the written work a 5 grade in English is essential.

Future Opportunities

Higher education courses, theatre related careers. See a member of the Drama Department to discuss these further.



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