

Drama and Theatre Studies

A Level

Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary (AS) | Advanced Level (A2)
Head of Performing Arts Department – Claire Nevers

You should do this course if.....

You enjoy participating in all areas of theatre and are passionate about performing and exploring and developing your own creativity.
You enjoy reading plays and developing a role into performance.
You are keen to explore how a play becomes a production.
You enjoy extending your individual and group skills and are able to take risks.
You enjoy going to the theatre to see a wide range of performance work.
You would welcome the opportunity to create your own drama and theatre.

Skills you will develop on this course.

Performance skills
Different approaches to developing a role.
Creative approaches to texts, characters and ideas.
Analytical skills.
Communication skills.
Advanced group skills
Presentations skills.
Research skills.
The ability to be self reflective.

Topics studied

UNIT 1 - (AS)

Exploration of Drama & Theatre
You will practically explore two contrasting plays, focussing on how they may be interpreted for performance. You will be introduced to important theatre practitioners and the work of influential theatre companies. You will analyse and review a play in performance

UNIT 2 - (AS)

Theatre Text in Performance
You will be directed in a play to perform to an audience. You will develop your role through the application of technique and imagination. Additionally you will prepare a monologue or duologue from a contrasting play to perform. You will offer a rationale of your interpretation in writing.

UNIT 3 – (A2)

Exploration of Dramatic Performance
You will create an original piece of theatre in response to a stimulus. You will conduct relevant research and evaluate the process and performance in writing. You will perform your devised piece to an audience.

UNIT 4 – (A2)

Theatre text in Context
You will study a set text from the point of view of a director, developing your own ideas for the play in performance as well as researching its social, cultural and historical contexts. In addition you will compare a live performance of a play from a previous historical period with how it would have been performed originally

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How will you learn?

The course is approached extremely practically.

You will work individually, in small groups and in whole group settings.

You will lead and be led in workshops.

You will be taught core performance skills through vocal and physical technique sessions.

You will conduct independent study.

You will be directed in a play which will be performed for examination.

You will go to see live performance work.

You will take part in workshops with visiting practitioners.

Where does the course lead?

Drama degree at University.

Drama school for outstanding performers.

Careers in Performing arts, Arts Management, Production, Journalism, Drama Therapy, Stage Management, Television, Teaching, Directing. Can also be helpful for Law, Media

Assessment and Exams

Unit 1

Coursework: Internally assessed, externally moderated.

A set of exploration notes (up to 3000 words) based on individual responses to the practical work must be submitted. You will also evaluate a live performance (up to 1000 words) Practical work also forms part of the assessment

40% of AS

Unit 2

Practical exam: Externally assessed by a visiting examiner

60% of AS

Unit 3

Internally assessed, externally moderated
You will be assessed on the research and development of your work as well as the final performance. You will evaluate the process and performance in writing

40% of A2

Unit 4

A2 Written exam. 2 and a half hours.

Externally assessed.

3 short responses on an identified section of the text and 2 essays.

Entry Requirements

5C's at GCSE. Grade C or above in English Language or Literature and a related performance subject or performing experience.