



# A Level Drama & Theatre Studies

## Why study Drama and Theatre Studies?

*"The stage is a magic circle where only the most real things happen...A truer and more real place does not exist in the whole entire universe."* P.S Baber

Drama reflects and even drives our cultural evolution. It has the power to enrich lives, challenge thinking, and can touch our deepest emotions. In performing, actors have a creative space to explore their interpretation of human nature, exploring the styles and theories of some of the most respected theatre practitioners to have emerged. By reflecting on the dramatic process and live theatre, students can explore their own sense of identity and the changing world around them.

## What is the course structure?

### A level:

Component 1: Drama and theatre <b>Written Paper</b>	40% 80 marks	3 hours; 3 Sections Section A: set text 1 – (25 marks) Section B: set text 2 – (30 marks) (Section A & B are open book) Section C: live recorded production – (25 marks)
Component 2: Creating original drama <b>Practical Performance &amp; Coursework</b> Teacher marked; AQA moderated	30% 60 marks	Devised performance – 20 marks Working notebook – 40 marks Devised piece influenced by one or more prescribed practitioner
Component 3: Making theatre <b>Practical Performance &amp; Coursework</b> Marked by AQA	30% 60 marks	Practical exploration of one key extract from a play; performed in the style of a prescribed practitioner – 40 marks Reflective report – 20 marks

## Which activities will I be engaged in during the course?

- Debate and discussion
- Devising and exploring various theatre styles and methods
- Presentations of practical work to audiences
- Visits to see a range of theatre performances
- Research of playwrights and practitioners
- Preparing notes and reflections
- Reading plays and related articles

## How can I prepare for the course?

### **Complete pre-course reading (many of which will be provided during induction) for Component 1:**

- Read and annotate the texts, looking for themes and characterisation
- Research life and times of the playwrights, focusing on the events which might have impacted their writing the most.
- Read the *Introduction to Theatre* pack and use it to help you complete the induction project.

\*It is recommended that pupils purchase their own copies of the plays for the duration of the course, in order to be able to make annotations on the text. Texts and publishers will be confirmed during induction.

### **Ensure that you have files to organise your notes:**

- Lever arch files might be best; subject dividers etc.

### **Complete the induction project set:**

- Using the introduction pack and any research of your own, create a timeline showing the key theatrical developments over time, placed alongside significant world events. For example, who was emerging in the world of theatre at the time of the Russian revolution?
- Use your research to answer the following question: *What might we learn about the role theatre and drama has in society?*
- You may present your research any way you like!

*Subject entry requirements: Grade 5 in Drama or Merit in Performing Arts and Grade 5 in English Literature*

Further information: Siobhan White (Head of Drama)