

The Curriculum > Drama

Why do we learn Drama?

Drama offers our pupils the opportunity to participate in and develop an appreciation for theatre and the arts. Allowing them to challenge themselves with different points of view, demonstrating compassion and empathy for others and encouraging them to show endurance when developing new skills. Drama helps pupils to develop confidence when speaking in front of an audience and supports them with communicating clearly with others, working as a team and as a leader.

How do we learn in Drama lessons?

Pupils explore a range of playtexts and performance styles at Key Stage 3, supporting them with developing their knowledge and understanding of different genres and theatre practitioners. Pupils are encouraged to develop a range of different performance skills including different aspects of characterisation and vocal and physical skills through practical exploration, including directing and devising.

We focus on developing believable characters that evoke a response from the audience and pupils regularly engage in offering feedback to their peers, developing analytical and evaluative skills.

At Key Stage 4, pupils further build on the knowledge and skills developed at Key Stage 3, studying theatre practitioners and their styles and approaches theoretically and practically before devising their own performances and reflecting on these as part of a portfolio. The focus of this portfolio is an analysis of the process of performance creation and evaluation of the final performance and decisions made in relation to this. It encourages pupils to reflect on their artistic decisions and skills used to communicate character to their audience. Following this, pupils commence their study of playtexts and develop two extract performances before working on their written examination. At this point in the course, we study a set text, where pupils explore how they would bring this text to life for their audience. Pupils focus on how they can use a range of performance and technical skills to bring this text to life for their audience before reviewing a piece of live theatre.

What do we learn in Drama lessons?

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 7	<p>All the World's A Stage</p> <p>Extract Performance- <i>A Servant to Two Masters</i></p> <p>'What makes us who we are?'</p>	<p>Shakespeare on Stage</p> <p>Extract Performance - <i>Romeo and Juliet</i></p> <p>'How can a physical performance be more impactful than the written word?'</p>	<p>A World of Pure Imagination</p> <p>Extract Performance - <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i></p> <p>'How can we communicate character in performance?'</p>
Year 8	<p>The Woman in Black</p> <p>Extract Performance - <i>The Woman in Black</i></p> <p>'How can we create tension in Drama?'</p>	<p>Soap Opera and Reality TV</p> <p>Devised Performance</p> <p>'Ethically, can we ever tell the whole story?'</p>	<p>Communicating Character</p> <p>Extract Performance - <i>Blood Brothers</i></p> <p>'How can we use performance skills to communicate character?'</p>
Year 9	<p>War & Conflict</p> <p>Devised Performance <i>Dulce et Decorum Est & The Manhunt</i></p> <p>'What role does truth-telling play in theatre?'</p>	<p>Compassion & Justice</p> <p>Extract Performance - <i>The Colour of Justice</i></p> <p>'How can theatre help us to demonstrate integrity?'</p>	<p>Horror & The Supernatural</p> <p>Extract Performance - <i>Frankenstein</i></p> <p>'Is there really nothing to fear but fear itself?'</p>
Year 10	<p>Practitioners in Practice</p> <p>Devised Performance</p> <p>'Why does theatre exist?'</p>	<p>DNA and Design</p> <p>Extract Performance - <i>DNA</i></p> <p>'Which is more important, preventing evil or maintaining integrity?'</p>	<p>Devising – 'Beauty'</p> <p>Devised Performance</p> <p>'What did Einstein mean when he said imagination takes you everywhere?'</p>
Year 11	<p>Theatre Makers in Practice</p> <p><i>An Inspector Calls</i></p> <p>'Why do we have a responsibility to communicate the playwright's intentions?'</p>	<p>Characterisation in Context</p> <p>Extract Performance</p> <p>'Who am I?'</p>	