

## Frequently asked questions for Drama

### What does GCSE Drama involve?

The GCSE Drama specification is designed to give you a broad and balanced experience of Drama. You will be given the opportunity to develop not only your performance skills but also your design skills in areas such as:

- Lighting design
- Sound design
- Set design
- Costume, Hair and Make-Up design

**Below is a table that summarises the three components and how they will be assessed. The externally assessed exam for Component 3 is completed at the end of Year 11.**

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| <p>Component 1:<br/>Devising<br/>Theatre<br/>40%</p>       | <p>You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre.<br/>You will produce:<br/>A portfolio of supporting evidence based on the rehearsal process<br/>A performance lasting between 5-16 minutes (depending on the number of actors in your group)<br/>An evaluation of the final performance or design.</p> | <p>Teacher assessed, and externally moderated</p> |
| <p>Component 2:<br/>Performing<br/>from a text<br/>20%</p> | <p>You will study two extracts from the same text chosen by you or your teacher. You can choose to be assessed on acting or design. You will produce:<br/>A performance lasting between 5-14 minutes using sections of text from both extracts.</p>  | <p>Externally assessed by a visiting examiner</p> |
| <p>Component 3:<br/>Interpreting<br/>Theatre<br/>40%</p>   | <p>Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes. You will answer:<br/>Section A: Set Text - A series of questions based on the set text that you have studied.<br/>Section B: Live Theatre Review – One question from a choice of two, analysing and evaluating a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.</p>                          | <p>Externally assessed examination</p>            |

### **What skills will I develop?**

You will have the opportunity learn and develop a range of transferable skills and practise applying these in new situations. These include analytical, problem-solving, organisation and time management skills. You will also be able to work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas, all of which will develop your emotional intelligence.

Your practical skills will be refined and will demonstrate creativity, reflection and resilience, as well as supporting you to develop your confidence and strong presentation skills. Your written skills, both analytical and reflective, will be developed through a range of tasks. Studying drama will also provide you with opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language. This is great brain-training which will help you in other areas too. Through studying drama, you will be equipped with the skills to succeed in your next steps.

### **How will GCSE Drama help me in the future?**

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report predicts creativity, innovation and ideation will be key skills for the workforce of the future. These so-called soft skills, which sit alongside analytical thinking and problem-solving, will replace manual tasks that become automated. When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted Creativity as the most important workplace capability to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Drama, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions! At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community.

### **What could I do next?**

The possibilities are endless. Drama will enable you to demonstrate many skills which employers, colleges and universities will be looking for. It can also give you opportunities to travel, meet people and get the most out of life. Some students go on to study Drama in some of the most recognised Drama colleges and conservatoires in Britain such as RADA, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Many also choose to study Drama as degree courses in Universities. A number of students forge successful careers as actors, directors, lighting or sound designers, costume, hair and make-up designers or stage designers. There are many other career paths within the industry including Stage Managers, Press and PR Managers and Producers. Others go on to various Universities (including Russell Group) to read a diverse range of subjects and work within an extremely broad range of careers including teaching, law, publishing, politics, translation, science, occupational therapy, journalism.