

AQA GCSE Drama



Why should I study GCSE Drama?

This is the course for you if...



- You have a passion for theatre, whether that is as an **actor**, a **costume designer**, **sound engineer**, **lighting technician** – any of the roles that **equally** contribute to a **quality** piece of theatre.
- You enjoy a mixture of practical and written / analytical work.
- You want to develop vital life skills including **teamwork**, **leadership**, **confidence** and **communication**.

Please note: The course is made up from a mixture of written and practical work. There will be the opportunity to explore design elements (lighting etc.) if performing isn't your cup of tea – *a small number of candidates can choose to be assessed through this method too!*

What will I study?



Component 1 – Understanding Drama (written exam)

Section 1 will ask students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how theatre is created and the different job roles available within the performance industry.

Section 2 requires students to study and explore practically a set text (currently **Blood Brothers** by **Willy Russell**). Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the characters and contexts of the play as a whole. Students will also explore ideas for how the play may be interpreted practically.

Section 3 requires students to analyse and evaluate the work of live theatre makers, from a piece of professional theatre, where they are an active member of the audience. (**Opportunity for a theatre visit!**)

Component 2 – Devising Theatre

Students will have the opportunity to create a piece of devised theatre as a group from a given stimulus. In addition to this, students are required to produce a Devising Log, detailing their Devising process.

Component 3 – Texts in Practice

Students are required to learn and perform two sections of a play to an external examiner. Candidates may choose to explore a design route for this component, working closely alongside performing members of a group.

*In addition to the components laid out, students will explore the works of theatre practitioners such as **Brecht**, **Berkoff**, **Stanislavski**, **Artaud**, **Vamos**, **Kneehigh** and **Frantic Assembly***

How will I be assessed?



You will sit one written exam at the end of year 11.

You will create and perform a piece of Devised Theatre, accompanied by a written Devising Log.

You will interpret and perform sections of a play to an external examiner towards the end of the course.

Which skills will I develop and use?



- Ability to work effectively and efficiently as part of a whole-class team
- Develop an appropriate form of communication whilst collaborating with peers
- Produce high quality responses to a set brief
- Develop analytical skills

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



This course leads to a GCSE Drama qualification. Progression from here is not limited to higher level courses in Drama and Performing Arts such as A-Level and BTEC and from there to degree level.

Although these are excellent ways of pursuing a career in the performative and entertainment industries, **most people who do drama at school do not go on to work in theatre**. Many **colleges**, **universities** and **employers** look for people with Drama qualifications because they are good **communicators**, **problem solvers** and **team players**. A Drama qualification gives an excellent grounding in **transferable skills** for careers in **law**, **medicine**, **nursing**, **police**, **armed services**, **retail**, **teaching** and **hospitality** to name just a few.