

AQA GCSE Drama



Why should I study GCSE Drama?

This is the course for you



- If you have a passion for theatre either as; an actor, a costume designer, sound engineer, lighting technician – any of the roles that equally contribute to a quality piece of theatre.
- If you enjoy a mixture of practical and written / analytical work.
- If you are interested in developing skills including teamwork, leadership and communication.

Please note: The course is heavily weighted towards the written elements of the course, equating to 70% of your overall GCSE.

What will I study?



1. Component 1 – Understanding Drama

This component is a written exam divided into three sections.

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

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 characteristics 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.

2. Component 2 – Devising Theatre

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

3. Component 3 – Texts in Practice

Students are required to learn and perform two contrasting sections of a play to an external examiner.

In addition to the components laid out, students will explore the works of theatre practitioners such as Brecht, Berkoff, Stanislavski, Artaud 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 2,500 word 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
- Accurate communication with peers
- Producing high quality responses to a set brief
- Develop their analytical skills
- Work in close collaboration with other students



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



This course leads to a GCSE Drama qualification. Progression from there 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.