

Drama Department

Exam Board: Edexcel
Course: A Level Theatre Studies

The main requirements of this course are as follows:

- Ideally GCSE Drama (though not essential)
- A passion for watching and creating theatre
- A desire to perform in front of an audience
- Commitment
- Motivation
- Willingness to rehearse outside school hours
- A bit of talent

Unit 1 – Exploration of Drama and Theatre

In this first part of the AS course, you will firstly explore **two** plays. The lessons will look in close detail at how to perform these plays for a modern audience. During the whole process you will be expected to keep detailed exploration notes. At the end of term 2 you will write up your notes, add diagrams, sketches, pictures and anything else relevant and hand it all in as your coursework. The final part of Unit 1 is to go to the theatre and see a live performance. Obviously this is something we expect you to do regularly if you want to do well in Theatre Studies, but this time you will have to write a 1000 word evaluation of the production. The evaluation can include sketches and diagrams.

Unit 2 – Theatre Text in Performance

This is the unit which tests your skills as a performer. Firstly you will choose a monologue or duologue from any suitable play and learn it. You will perform this to an external examiner. Your teacher will guide you towards a suitable play and help you rehearse it. Secondly you will work in a small group to adapt an existing play for a performance. This will be directed by your teacher. They will cast the play and rehearse it with you. The teacher will also help you to provide set, costumes, lights and props. Again this is performed to an external examiner and accounts for 50% of your AS mark.

Unit 3 – Exploration of Dramatic Performance

This unit tests your creativity and team working skills. In small groups you will devise and create a play of your own. This will be based on stimulus materials you provide or your teacher provides. There will be devising and improvising workshops to help you but the impetus must come from you. Your teacher will guide you and help where necessary, but they will not direct you. This is an independent piece of work that results in a performance of your play, usually at The Egg theatre in Bath.

Unit 4 – Theatre Text in Context

This is the final part of the A Level Theatre Studies course and involves a written examination. This will involve the careful study of one play from an historical time period. The second section will ask you to write about a play from a different time period to the previous section. You will go to see a performance of the play, then research how it might have been performed when it was originally written (ancient Greece or Elizabethan England for example). You need to be able to write about how the play you saw was different to how it would have been performed originally and why.