



Drama Department – Curriculum Intent

Overview of KS3 Drama Curriculum 2025-26			
Head of Department: Mrs H Glen			
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Autumn Term	<p>Pupils are timetabled for ONE Drama lesson per fortnight. This typically means pupils will have 3 or 4 lessons per half term.</p> <p>Autumn 1: 3/4 lessons: Baseline Assessment Task 'Structuring Drama & Storytelling' Pupils work in small groups commencing with a simple ABC script followed by development of ideas. This culminates in an assessed performance.</p> <p>Autumn 2: 3/4 lessons: Approaching Scripted Extract Pupils will work in pairs to explore and present a duologue scripted extract from 'Blood Brothers'. Pupils will develop skills for exploring a script and the development of character.</p> <p>Spring 1: 3 lessons:</p>	<p>Pupils are timetabled for ONE Drama lesson per fortnight. This typically means pupils will have 3 or 4 lessons per half term.</p> <p>Autumn 1: 3/4 lessons: Baseline Assessment Task 'Structuring Drama & Storytelling' Pupils work in small groups commencing with a response to stimuli, 'Missing Dan Nolan', followed by development of ideas. This culminates in an assessed performance</p> <p>Autumn 2: 3/4 lessons: Approaching Scripted Extract Pupils will work in groups to explore and present a scripted extract from 'Lord of the Flies'. Pupils will develop skills for exploring a script and the development of character.</p>	<p>Pupils are timetabled for ONE Drama lesson per fortnight. This typically means pupils will have 3 or 4 lessons per half term.</p> <p>Autumn 1: 3/4 lessons: Baseline Assessment Task 'Structuring Drama & Storytelling' Pupils work in small groups commencing with a response to stimuli, 'Dulce et Decorum Est', followed by development of ideas. This culminates in an assessed performance.</p> <p>Autumn 2: 3/4 lessons: Approaching Scripted Extract Pupils will work in groups to explore and present a scripted extract from 'Noughts and Crosses'. Pupils will develop skills for exploring a script and the development of character using elements of the Stanislavsky System.</p>



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Spring Term	<p>Developing Drama Pupils will work in small groups beginning with ‘The Zombie School’ stimuli. Pupils will learn how to generate ideas and develop these into an original piece of Drama. The focus during this half term will be on Plot, Creating Audience Effect, Genre and Structure.</p> <p>Spring 2: 3/4 lessons: Developing Drama Pupils will work in small groups beginning with ‘The Zombie School’ stimuli. Pupils will learn how to generate ideas and develop these into an original piece of Drama. The focus during this half term will be on Plot, Creating Audience Effect, Genre and Structure.</p>	<p>Spring 1: 3 lessons: Developing Drama Pupils will work in small groups beginning with ‘The Zombie School’ stimuli. Pupils will learn how to generate ideas and develop these into an original piece of Drama. The focus during this half term will be on Plot, Creating Audience Effect, Genre and Structure.</p> <p>Spring 2: 3/4 lessons: Developing Drama Pupils will work in small groups beginning with ‘The Horror School’ stimuli. Pupils will learn how to generate ideas and develop these into an original piece of Drama. The focus during this half term will be on Plot, Creating Audience Effect, Genre and Structure.</p>	<p>Spring 1: 3 lessons: Developing Drama Pupils will work in small groups beginning with an exploration of ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’. Pupils will learn how to generate ideas and develop these into an original piece of Drama. The focus during this half term will be on Plot, Creating Audience Effect, Genre- Verbatim and Physical Theatre introduction and Structure.</p> <p>Spring 2: 3/4 lessons: Developing Drama Pupils will work in small groups beginning with an exploration of ‘War Horse’. Pupils will learn how to generate ideas and develop these into an original piece of Drama. The focus during this half term will be on Plot, Creating Audience Effect, Genre- Verbatim and Physical Theatre introduction and Structure.</p>
Summer Term	<p>Summer 1: 2/3 lessons: Theatre History: Pupils will enjoy a combination of practical and theory work to gain knowledge and understanding of Shakespearian Theatre. This work will be planned and delivered in collaboration with the English department.</p> <p>Summer 2: 3 lessons: Theatre History Continued: Upon completing a Shakespeare assessment, pupils will then continue to enjoy a combination of practical and theory work to gain knowledge and understanding of ‘Ancient Greek Theatre’. This will culminate in an assessed performance.</p>	<p>Summer 1: 2/3 lessons: Theatre History: Pupils will enjoy a combination of practical and theory work to gain knowledge and understanding of Shakespearian Theatre. This work will be planned and delivered in collaboration with the English department.</p> <p>Summer 2: 3 lessons: Theatre History: Upon completing a Shakespeare assessment, pupils will then enjoy a combination of practical and theory work to gain knowledge and understanding of ‘Naturalistic Theatre’. Culminating in design task.</p>	<p>Summer 1: 2/3 lessons: Theatre History: Pupils will enjoy a combination of practical and theory work to gain knowledge and understanding of Shakespearian Theatre. This work will be planned and delivered in collaboration with the English department.</p> <p>Summer 2: 3 lessons: Theatre History: Upon completing a Shakespeare assessment, pupils will then enjoy a combination of practical and theory work to gain knowledge and understanding of ‘Political Theatre & Bertolt Brecht’. This will culminate in a short design or performance task.</p>



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Overview of KS4 Curriculum

Subject: GCSE Drama **Exam Board:** Edexcel

	Year 10 Edexcel GCSE Drama	Year 11 Edexcel GCSE Drama
Autumn Term	<p>Autumn 1: Introduction to Edexcel GCSE Drama Pupils will be introduced to each of the three components of the GCSE Drama Course. They will spend roughly two weeks per component. Each unit will be assessed in line with GCSE 9-1 Edexcel Criteria. Work will include practical and written tasks in line with the specification.</p> <p>Autumn 2: Component 1 Devising The majority of CLASSWORK will be dedicated to pupils working practically in developing their Devised Performances. They will be introduced to the requirements of the practical assessment/performance criteria and requirements for the written portfolio. Throughout the Devising process pupils will maintain detailed notes in preparation for the written portfolio. Pupils will continue with development and rehearsal of Devised performance culminating in assessed performance (NEA) during week beginning 23 March 2026.</p>	<p>Autumn 1: Component 3 Section A: Written Examination Set Text 'DNA' Pupils will work to build on existing foundation of knowledge and understanding. Focus will move to incorporate specific focus on scaffolding responses and meeting specific needs of Section questions. Half Term Break: Pupils to complete Practice Paper Section A</p> <p>Autumn 2: Weeks 1-2: Component 3 Section A: Mock Preparation Week 3: MOCK Exams Week 4: 1) MOCK Examination Feedback & Next Steps 2) C1 Portfolio feedback and final draft. Week 5-7:1) C1 Portfolio Final Draft re-writing 2) C2 Selection of assessed skill and scripted extracts Christmas Break: C2 Scripted Extract Research</p>
Spring Term	<p>Spring 1 and Spring 2: The majority of CLASSWORK will be dedicated to pupils working practically in developing their Devised Performances. They will be introduced to the requirements of the practical assessment/performance criteria and requirements for the written portfolio. Throughout the Devising process pupils will maintain detailed notes in preparation for the written portfolio. Pupils will continue with development and rehearsal of Devised performance culminating in assessed performance (NEA) during week beginning 23 March 2026. Pupils will submit their portfolio FIRST DRAFT on Monday 20 April 2026. This will then be marked, and feedback given ahead of the FINAL deadline of Monday 21 May 2026</p>	<p>Spring 1: Component 2 Text in Performance x4 lessons per fortnight Rehearsals and Preparation Component 3: x1 lesson per fortnight: Component 3 Written Examination -Set Text and Live Theatre Preparation</p> <p>Spring 2: Component 2 Text in Performance x4 lessons per fortnight Rehearsals and Preparation: Exam performance w/c 22 March 2026 Component 3: x1 lesson per fortnight: Component 3 Written Examination -Set Text and Live Theatre Preparation</p>
Summer Term	<p>Summer: Component 3 Set Text 'DNA' Pupils will begin the study of the GCSE Set Text 'The Crucible'. Work will be a combination of practical and theory approaches. The initial focus will be on gaining knowledge and understanding of Genre, Context, Playwright, Plot, Structure and Characters</p> <p>Component 1: C1 Written Portfolio: Final Draft (Extended Homework Task with some in class sessions) FINAL deadline of Monday 21 May 2026</p>	<p>Summer 1: Component 3 Final preparations for written examination Best practice written examination Past Papers/Model answers Building depth of knowledge and understanding</p> <p>Summer 2: EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS</p>



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Professional Skills

Pupils may not wish to pursue a career as a performer but many career paths will benefit from the study of Drama some ideas are listed below.

Performers are only part of the picture, you might wish to consider the many careers in performance support from Set and Costume Design to Lighting, Sound and Props or what about taking the lead as a Theatre Director?

Pupils will develop skills, such as Oracy, improved literacy skills, collaboration, and problem-solving, that would benefit a career in.....

Marketing

Advertising

Law

Teaching

Sales

Entrepreneurs and Business leaders need the skills to communicate their ideas and to work collaboratively with others.

Indeed, anything which requires public speaking or good communication skills!

Find out more.....

[Edexcel GCSE Drama \(2016\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

Extend your Study....

.....in school with our LAMDA lessons

[LAMDA Exams | London academy of music & dramatic art](#)

Curriculum Rationale

At KS3 (Years 7-9), students enjoy fortnightly lessons, working hard to rapidly develop confident theatre making and a foundation of performing skills. With a number of students experiencing Drama teaching for the first time, we are delighted that our students make excellent progress at KS3. Even at this early stage, students are encouraged to familiarise and use subject specific terminology. Regular assessments at KS3 are modelled on expectations at KS4, ensuring that students are able to master key techniques such as: developing ideas to create an original piece of Drama, exploring scripted works, creating a specific audience effect, developing awareness of the use of performance support elements, the ability to analyse and evaluate performance. During each year pupils are given an opportunity to build on prior learning as each half term is mirrored through each key stage. All pupils are able to extend their learning through our extensive extra-curricular programme and through taking peripatetic LAMDA lessons.

At KS4, students follow the Edexcel exam specification and build upon their knowledge at KS3. Following an introductory half term in Year 10, we commence study and practical exploration of the Component 1 Devising, the performance takes place at the end of the Spring Term upon which pupils are able to complete the written portfolio. Whilst completing the written portfolio for C1, we commence study of Component 3 Section A- Set Text; 'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller with pupils presenting extract from the play during our annual Performing Arts week in the Summer term, followed by a school production in January 2027. At an appropriate time, dependent upon theatre listings, in preparation for Component 3 Section B, pupils will undertake study of a Live Theatre Performance. This will usually follow our annual residential trip to London. During the Autumn Term of Year 11 focus return to deepening pupil knowledge in responding to meet the requirements of the written examination and the mock exams in November. Results information can then be used to structure a fortnightly Component 3 lesson throughout the Spring Term. During this time, pupils will be preparing for the Component 2 Performance in Text Exam which will typically happen in the final weeks of the Spring Term of Year 11.

KS5 No curriculum provision at present although conversations are ongoing as to a possible re-introduction of A-level Drama & Theatre in September 2026.



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