



18th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well. I'm sure you will be aware of the numerous changes being made at Denton Community College in partnership with our new sponsors The Northern Education Trust (NET) in response to the school's most recent OFSTED inspection.

There are many incredibly positive and progressive steps being taken in and around the school at the moment to ensure we make rapid improvements to the school to ensure the standard of education your child receives is of the highest quality and that, ultimately, that they leave us in Year 11 with the best possible outcomes to enhance their future life opportunities.

Some of the changes currently underway involve re-aligning our curriculum so that it matches with that of the other schools that are part of the Northern Education Trust and one of the subjects that will experience these changes is Drama.

The main purpose of this letter is to let you know that your child will be transferring from a GCSE qualification in Drama to a BTEC Technical Award in Drama and I am confident this is going to be a very positive change.

On the following page I have outlined the key components of the BTEC qualification, so that you know what your child will be studying over the coming months.

Perhaps the most positive aspect of this change is that there is no written exam. For the GCSE qualification the written exam still amounts to 40% of the overall Final Grade, meaning that no matter how creative and talented a performer, GCSE students still have to succeed in a written exam to achieve a good outcome. Whilst for some students this might not be a problem, the majority of those who choose Drama do so because of their love of performing, rather than their love of closely analysing texts. I am sure you agree that this new BTEC qualification is a step forward.

It is important to point out that a Drama BTEC is very much an 'equivalent' to a GCSE and is in no way an 'easy option'. In fact, it has a very challenging focus on technical and practical skills and ability and it is certainly one that is most desirable for those who wish to pursue a career in the Performing Arts or go on to take further qualifications in Performing Arts when they leave school.

If you require any further information, or wish to discuss this decision in further detail, please do not hesitate to contact me on t.lewis@dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk or via reception on 0161 336 2119.

Kind regards

T. Lewis

Mr Lewis
Head of Drama

BTEC Technical Award in DRAMA - Key Points

This exciting specification enables students to:

- increase their confidence and self-esteem
- employ the skills of problem solving and creativity
- make creative decisions when creating Drama pieces
- understanding effectiveness of working in teams to develop ideas, rehearsals and performances as an actor/designer
- develop performance disciplines in different styles of Drama.

Course Structure and Assessment

Students will complete three components:

Component 1 (30%): Exploring the Performing Arts. You will develop and understand the requirements of being an actor or designer looking at different performance scripts and styles. You will study professional practitioners and plays and create your own performances of these as an actor/designer.

Component 2 (30%): Developing Skills and Techniques of the actor. You will take part in acting and design workshops leading to a final scripted performance as an actor/designer.

Component 3 (40%): Performing to a Brief. You will work as part of a team to create your own devised Drama performance in response to a given brief set by the exam board.

Components will be assessed using the following grading system:

Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass.

Future Pathways:

With further study or training students can go on to take various pathways into future careers: A Level in Drama or Performing Arts; Drama teacher, professional actor, backstage, design or technical roles within the Performing Arts industry.