

Year 8 - Drama

What will be studied?

Topic(s)

Introduction to Year 8 Drama - An introduction into key skills required when creating a performance. Characterisation skills (Vocal and Physical skills), techniques, ensemble work, rehearsal and improvisation.

Zombie Survival Guide -Students will look at ensemble, characterisation, stage combat, costume and make-up alongside devising their own characters and stories.

Melodrama/Slapstick Comedy/Mask work- Students will explore the genres of Melodrama and Slapstick. Students will look at the stock characters found in each genre and explore the key characteristics that make them identifiable. Students will consider what is comedy and how it can be created. They will explore how Silent Movie and Slapstick performers communicated meaning with an audience and will be introduced to the technique of placards.

Greek Theatre - A detailed look at Greek Theatre, characters, chorus, ensemble.

Dramaturgy - Live Theatre - Students will consider the different aspects of technical theatre from costume, lighting, sound to set and props/stage furniture using a greater sense of specific vocabulary. Students will explore the different types of lighting lanterns and states. Students will reflect upon the meaning behind choices that directors/designers make and what impact this might have on the audience particularly how they make it relevant for a modern audience and use symbolism. Students will then be introduced to a production from the National Theatre that will be deconstructed and analysed.

Shakespeare - A look at Shakespeare in performance, approaching 3 Shakespearean performances and bringing them to life.

How do you assess the learning?

Students will be assessed on 5 areas in Drama:

Creating/Devising

Rehearsal

Performance

Techniques/Genre/Style

Evaluation

There will be a balance between creative homework to enable students to share ideas, use their imagination, develop characterisation, research and prepare for assessment and evaluation.

Assessments will be a combination of group and individual performances, subject knowledge written assessments and SMHW quizzes.

End of Year Examination

How will I be assessed at the end of the year?

There will be a 1 hour written paper. Students will have the opportunity to apply knowledge from the year to develop responses to questions. Practical work will also be taken into consideration for end of year grade

How can I help my child?

Guidance and advice

Use the GCSE website BBC Bitesize to help challenge your theory
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zgnv9j6>

Read plays around themes, genres and topics you are interested in. Samuel French has a great selection and they have an enormous selection in their London Store. Equally you can visit the National Theatre Bookshop.

Talk to your teachers to see if they can recommend any play texts for you to read.

Take part in any extracurricular opportunities and clubs that are happening in the department.

Use show my homework to help ensure that all tasks are completed.

Visiting the theatre and watching different styles of performance. Local theatre's include; Lyric Hammersmith, Beck Theatre, Hayes, The Questors Theatre, Acton, Bush Theatre, National Theatre and many more.

Visiting the V & A museum where there is an exhibition about theatre including examples of costume from west end productions.

Join an amateur dramatic drama club/ youth theatre group.

Many theatre's offer youth weeks during school holidays and half terms.
