

## Year 8 - Drama

### What will be studied?

#### Topic(s)

**Melodrama/Slapstick Comedy** - 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.

**Darkwood Manor** - Students will look at the genre of horror and how to build tension in drama. Students will develop a role as part of Darkwood Village and explore the myths and legends behind Lady Darkwood and her manor house. Students will consider character reactions and how to build a world around the role. Students will uncover the mystery and devise from a narrative stimulus what is really going on in Darkwood.

**Mask work - Mask Exploration** - Students will look at the rules of mask and how to use character masks, as well as looking at the history of mask work in Theatre.

**Physical Theatre** - Students will explore how to create meaning through movement sequences. Students will begin to understand the work of Frantic Assembly, a physical theatre company that has a focus on movement. Specifically, students will explore chair duets and round-by-through. Students will evaluate how we can tell a story through non-verbal movement and how this is effective in performance.

**Theatre History** - A look at Theatre styles and popularity throughout history, Students will create their own performances inspired the performance style of choice.

### 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 exam and a formative practical assessment. Students will have the opportunity to apply knowledge from the year to develop responses to questions.

### 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, Kiln 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.

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