

Year 8 - Drama

What will be studied?

Topic(s)

The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty - Students will recap key techniques, performance and rehearsal skills from Year 7 through devising from a play. The play explores themes of bullying and responsibility. Students will use the play to begin considering structuring their devised work.

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 comedy is 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.

Mask work - 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.

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.

Introduction to Devising - Students are presented with a topic and using the skills they have developed over the course of the year must create their own performance based on the characters and topics presented to them.

How do you assess the learning?

Students will be assessed on 5 areas in Drama:

Creating
Rehearsal
Performance
Theatre Knowledge
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 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/examspecs/zkvm2sg>

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 librarian 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 Google Classroom 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.

Join an amateur dramatic drama club/ youth theatre group.

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