

KS4 GCSE - Drama

Course Specifications

Exam board: Pearson (Edexcel)

Course type: GCSE

Course Description

Drama at ACS aims to actively engage students in the process of dramatic study in order to develop them as effective and independent learners. We give them the tools to be inspired, moved and changed by studying a broad and worthwhile curriculum.

The Drama GCSE supports the development and growth of student's spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of learning. Throughout lessons students are encouraged to reflect, ask questions and consider alternative perspectives.

Throughout the course students will have the opportunity to:

- apply knowledge and understanding when making, performing and responding to drama
- explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created
- develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performances
- work collaboratively to create theatrical performances
- develop as creative, effective, independent and reflective students
- reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others
- develop an awareness and understanding of the roles and processes undertaken in contemporary professional theatre practice

Skills & Abilities

You must have a love and passion for Drama, be self-motivated and be prepared to work at home. You will also be willing to work with a range of different people, go to trips and workshops and attend rehearsals.

You will also be prepared to perform to a range of different audiences and share your work in progress.

Alongside the practical element of this unit, you should be prepared to approach Theatre from a critical point of view. Reflecting, analysing and evaluating Theatre in a written format.

Assessment

Component 1 The Devising Process 40% (Performance and Written) - Students devise a piece of theatre which they then perform. They will record the process in a portfolio. Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 2 Text for Performance 20% (Performance)- Performance of two extracts from a text. Performed to an examiner – externally marked

Component 3 Theatre makers in practice. (Written Exam: 1 hour 45 min). Section A: Questions on a set text. Section B: (Live Theatre Evaluation). 40% - Set text that is explored practically then answering questions from the perspective of the director, designer and rehearsal process. Evaluation of a piece of live theatre they have seen.

Careers & Progression

Qualification for students wishing to pursue a career involving communication and people related skills.

There are a range of University courses you can study. Careers involve: Acting, Directing, Stage Design, Lighting, Journalism, Law, Theatre Administration, Television & Film Production, Teaching, Politics and Middle Management.

Guidance & 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 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 or watch digitally or at the Theatre.

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