

Why study GCSE Drama?

Year 9 GCSE options

Why should I choose to study GCSE Drama?

As a subject, Drama provides some of the most transferable skills that you will use in your adult life:

- Drama teaches you to work as part of a team. Here you will learn to balance ideas, work with and listen to others, evaluate your work and develop your organisational skills. In adult life, there will be many occasions where you will need to work as part of a team and studying Drama will equip you with these skills.
- Drama gives you the confidence to perform and present in front of others. When you go for job, college or university interviews, or lead a presentation at work, studying Drama will provide you with the required skills to communicate and deliver confidently in front of others.
- In Drama you will need to improvise on a number of occasions. This allows you to think on your feet and develop your initiative. This will hold you in good stead when it comes to taking initiative and adapting in your future workplaces.

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- Drama will teach you to be creative. It will encourage you to come up with exciting ideas and you will learn how to think outside the box.
- You will learn to work towards a deadline. Drama will teach you to be disciplined in managing your time and developing the progress of your piece.
- Analysing and evaluating theatre will develop your critical thinking. This is a useful skill that is transferable across a number of subjects.
- When you act in Drama you put yourself in to another person's shoes and try to identify with them and their situation. This will develop your empathy towards others, especially when portraying a character that is experiencing feelings and situations that you may not initially understand. This is a key skill that will open your mind and develop your interaction skills. It is also an essential attribute to many careers such as teaching, nursing or caring.

Is GCSE Drama for me?

Drama GCSE is absolutely for you if:

- You have an interest in performing
- You want to develop your confidence
- You enjoy working as part of a team
- You have an interest in watching performances
- You are interested in other roles within theatre, such as directing or designing
- You like working practically
- You are committed and enthusiastic about Drama

What will I study?

You will learn a variety of skills in GCSE Drama including:

- Devising your own original performances using a stimulus
- Performing an existing script
- Watching and evaluating live theatre
- What the role of a director entails
- Lighting and sound design
- Costume and set design

How will I be assessed?

The course is broken down into three components as follows:

- **Devising Drama:** Students research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama. They complete a portfolio of evidence during the devising process, give a final performance of their drama, and write an evaluation of their own work. (30% of total GCSE)
- **Presenting and performing texts:** Students develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text. (30% of total GCSE)
- **Drama: Performance and response:** Students explore practically a whole performance text and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how drama is developed, performed and responded to. They also analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance. (40% of total GCSE)

What career options does studying this subject give me?

As previously stated, Drama can give you a number of transferable skills that many other subjects cannot. These are useful and relevant in whatever career path you decide to choose, whether it is related to Drama or not. It teaches you presentation and team work skills and it helps in developing your confidence and empathy with others.

If you wish to continue studying Drama at a higher level, then studying GCSE Drama will prepare you for higher education such as A Level Drama. If you wish to pursue Drama as a career option then there are a number of routes that you can take such as acting, directing, teaching, stage management, costume design, set construction, lighting and sound technical work to name a few.

What homework/independent learning will I need to carry out?

Drama homework will entail a mixture of the following:

- Preparing for practical assessments, for example learning lines, finding time to rehearse with your group etc.
- Practice questions for the written exam.
- Maintaining a log of your practical work to assist with developing your role.
- Carrying out research to help to develop your practical work.

Any other questions?

Please contact Mrs Walker by emailing gwr@stjohnfisherschool.org.uk if you have any questions about studying GCSE Drama.