

## Drama

***'Everybody can be good at drama.'*** Talent is not essential to this subject. Why? Because this is educational drama. It's about exploring topics and issues that are important to all of us in a way that allows students to empathise with others and therefore gain understanding. Students are taught a range of stage skills which they need to show understanding of and be able to demonstrate to achieve a certain level of achievement. That said, those with an interest in acting are encouraged and challenged so that their interest and skills are built upon and maintained.

Drama is taught in form groups within the Drama Studio, where lessons begin with 'the tongue twister of the week' and students work in randomly selected groups that differ from week to week, thus ensuring that they learn to work with a variety of personalities and skill sets.

Topics change on half termly basis and support many other subjects, for example some Shakespeare plays, such as 'Macbeth' and 'The Tempest' are studied but in a far more practical way than within English Literature with the hope that the students learn to appreciate Shakespeare as a story teller. PSHE issues like 'Bullying' and 'Homelessness' are some of the topics covered in a dramatic way and the plays of Mark Wheeler are used to enable exploration of drink driving, drug abuse and the importance of staying together when out with friends. We also study historical events, such as child labour in the cotton mills of the 1800's and the pioneers of the 'wild west'. Whenever relevant, trips to live performances are arranged to supplement the teaching.

Throughout these many and varied topics, new stage skills are being learnt so that students wishing to extend their studies at GCSE level have mastered all the correct skills before beginning the two-year course.

GCSE is taught in much smaller groups and we follow the AQA syllabus. The course is split into three units, the first being 'knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre, along with study of a set play and analysis of a live performance. Unit 2 is about the process of creating and performing a devised scene and involves the writing of a log book, detailing the process stage by stage. Finally the third unit involves the performance of two extracts from a published play.