

DRAMA

Key Stage 4	
<p>Year 10</p> <p>Devised drama: Runaways –Students are expected to devise a piece of theatre around this theme.</p> <p>Text: <i>Blue Remembered Hills</i>- Dennis Potter</p>	<p>Year 11</p> <p>Devised drama: Discrimination- Students are expected to devise a piece of theatre around this theme</p> <p>Text: <i>Sepia and Song</i> – David Foxton (Four plays in one book-<i>Titanic, A Memory of Lizzie, The Godmother, I was a good little girl 'til</i>. OR <i>The Crucible</i>- Arthur Miller</p>
<p>Support for Pupils:</p> <p>Practical work: Students should use some after school time and/or lunchtimes for preparing practical work as they need to work in their groups. It helps if the students can run their lines through with parents or friends and this is a part of homework. Students that participate in school plays or extra curricular drama build skills that help them with their performance at GCSE level.</p> <p>Written work: At GCSE level students write two types of essay. The first type is saying how they would perform a character from one of the set texts above and the second is a detailed review of live theatre. In both types of essay there is an emphasis on clear analytical description. Therefore it helps if students can discuss their ideas with parents. If a student can describe a play to someone who didn't see it with vivid detail it helps their written ability. Some terminology resources should be available on line next year but students can ask for sample essays.</p> <p>Useful Books: <i>Student Handbook for Drama</i>- Brian McGuire <i>Bitesize Drama</i>- Andy Kempe</p>	
<p>Useful Websites:</p> <p>www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/drama.html www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcse/drama.html www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/LizzieBorden/bordenhome.html www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/pankhurst_emmeline.shtml</p>	

Key Stage 5	
<p>Year 12</p> <p><u>AS</u></p> <p>Devised drama-based on a broad theme</p> <p>Texts: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>- Shakespeare. <i>Shadow of a Gunman</i> O'Casey</p> <p>Theory: Theory and practise of Russian director/actor Konstantin Stanislavski</p>	<p>Year 13</p> <p><u>A2</u></p> <p>Play in Production: Students choose a play and present an extract</p> <p>Text: <i>The Rivals</i> by Sheridan. <i>The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui</i> by Brecht</p> <p>Theory: Theory and practise of German playwright and director Bertolt Brecht.</p>
<p>Support for Pupils:</p>	

Practical work: Students should use some after school time and/or lunchtimes for preparing practical work as they need to work in their groups. Mrs Parker-Hall is available to watch and give feedback on the practical work in progress provided all students are prepared to pre-arrange and attend a session. Students that participate in school plays or extra curricular drama build skills that help them with their performance at A level.

Written work:

At AS level students write three types of essay. The first type is saying how they would perform a character from one of the set texts above, the second is a detailed review of live theatre and the third is how they would use the theory and practise of Stanislavski in rehearsal.

In the first two types of essay there is an emphasis on clear analytical description. Therefore it helps if students can discuss their ideas with parents. If a student can describe a play to someone who didn't see it with vivid detail it helps their written ability. Some terminology resources should be available on line next year but students can ask for sample essays.

At A2 Level students write two types of essay. The first type is saying how they would perform a character from one of the set texts above and the second is how they would use the theory and practise of Brecht in rehearsal. The students also have an unseen paper and the best preparation for this is to see as much theatre as possible and to develop a broad understanding of different styles and genres of theatre.

Useful Books:

Sonia Moore's Guide to Stanislavski
Any Martin Esslin Books or John Willett books on Brecht.
Stanislavski and the Actor: The Method of Physical Action by Jean Benedetti
Gill Lamden: Devising Theatre
Drama and Theatre Studies by Sally Mackey and Simon Cooper
There is also A student's guide to A Level Drama and Theatre Studies published by Rhinegold-however, some people find this more useful than others and it is expensive.

Useful Websites:

www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gceasa/dra.html
www.doollee.com
www.doollee.com
www.rsc.org.uk

The best support for students taking this course is to see as much live theatre as possible and keep an eye on the latest developments via The Guide (Guardian Saturday Magazine), Reviews, The Stage and Plays and Players

Considering HE, University or Drama School?

Some students may take A Level Drama as a step towards studying the subject at Drama school or University. The two options can be very different and it is worth discussing this with the teacher as early as possible. Generally places at Drama school are scarce especially for students straight out of A Level but allow plenty of time effort and money if you choose this route. Whichever course of study is chosen, students should have their audition speeches ready for September. There are collections of Audition speeches in the school library and Drama department.

J. Parker-Hall