

Department Information:

At KS3, students are encouraged to appreciate drama as an art form. In Year 7 the learning is an introduction to key skills and techniques which they will then develop throughout the following years. The exploration is embedded around creating, performing and responding to drama which are the skills needed for GCSE and beyond. Through topics ranging from Silent Mime, Commedia dell'Arte to Genre, Style and Form and The Kindertransport, students develop their understanding of form and style and their skills as a performer plus the wider understanding of themselves and the world.

ACHIEVE in the curriculum:

*Drama encourages students to use **collaboration** to develop their understanding of the subject. Students are using their **endurance** to approach different areas of study. In lessons we strive for a safe and **happy** environment where students can excel.*

Curriculum Aims & Intent:

The Year 7 curriculum intends to introduce students to the fundamental drama skills and techniques needed in future work. Students are coming from a range of Primary schools with different experience of drama and performance, therefore the Year 7 curriculum aims to ensure all students have a solid understanding of the key principles of drama and performance as well as develop their transferable skills such as teamwork, problem solving, confidence, creativity which are essential to all areas of their education. Students in Year 7 are taught key techniques such as still image, thought track and cross cutting alongside teaching understanding of voice and physical skills. They are taught how to verbally evaluate performance through peer assessment of each others work.

Resources:

Script extracts for various exercises

Various youtube clips showing examples of the style and techniques which are embedded into the power points

BBC Bitesize- KS3 Drama

How we keep parents informed:

Year 7 - Progress reports are published 4 times per year, in October, December, April and July, with a face-to-face parents' evening in May.

How parents can help their child:

Visit the theatre

Apply for a school trip visit

Use BBC bitesize KS3 drama to support understanding of terminology.

Test students on key terminology

What we study and when:					
Term	Unit, Topic Or Summary Of Work Covered	Knowledge, Understanding & Skills Developed	ACHIEVE / Personal Development Focus	How The Work Is Assessed	Careers Links
1	'Without Words'	In this unit students develop a knowledge of facial expressions, body language and space. Technically, they are introduced to still image, mime and thought track. They develop their understanding of creating a linear narrative for an audience. All these skills accumulate to the creation of a mime showing clear character in small groups.	Collaboration Teamwork Endurance Analysis Evaluation Description Confidence Problem Solving Negotiation Leadership Adaptability	End of term assessment-performance task	
2	Characterisation	In this unit students are explicitly taught physical skills and vocal skills. They will apply these to character and develop their understanding of status. They will use these skills to devise a short piece from a stimulus where they show clear character through their physical and vocal skills.		End of term assessment-performance task	Playwright
3	Genre- Comedy and Tragedy	In this unit students will explore genre through tragedy and comedy. They will be introduced to slap stick comedy and physical humour. Contrasting this, they will explore the tragedy genre through exploring narrative structure and realism. They will use their understanding of physical and vocal skills plus techniques used in previous terms to create a piece which explores both genres.		Mid term assessment-creating task	Director
4	Mood and Atmosphere- Darkwood Manor	In this unit, students will build on their understanding of characterisation, vocal and physical skills and will be asked to use these to create mood and atmosphere on stage. Students will explore a story of <i>Darkwood Manor</i> , an abandoned house in the countryside. Students will be introduced to the style 'physical theatre' in their creation of <i>Darkwood Manor</i> developing their understanding of style.		End of term assessment-performance	Designer
5	Devising- Kindertransport	For this unit, students will continue to develop their use of their vocal and physical skills when exploring the historical event of the Kindertransport. This unit will introduce students to new techniques such as ensemble, essence machine and cross cutting in		End of term assessment-Performance task	Playwriting

		their exploration of the Kindertransport. Students will also develop their understanding of realism and be introduced to the practitioner Stanislavski.
6	Commedia Dell'Arte	Year 7 finishes Commedia Dell'Arte, this unit builds on their understanding of comedy and character. They will explore specific characters from the style of Commedia and specific Commedia techniques such as 'Behind the Back' and 'Cross Talk'. They will apply their understanding of vocal and physical skills to create a Commedia Dell'Arte sketch.

Mid term- assessment- evaluation task.	Theatre critic