

Drama – Aims/Intent

All students should be enabled to participate in and gain knowledge, skills and understanding associated with the artistic practice of drama. Students should be able to adopt, create and sustain a range of roles, responding appropriately to others in role. They should have opportunities to improvise, devise and script drama for one another and a range of audiences, as well as to rehearse, refine, share and respond thoughtfully to drama and theatre performances.

Our intent is to provide opportunities for students to:

1. Develop understanding and communication within the form of Drama.
2. Develop an awareness of the diverse social, historical and cultural contexts of Drama.
3. Develop knowledge and understanding of the processes involved in devising (improvisation) and approaching a text through practical application.
4. Introduce and gain knowledge of a range of theatre skills that are used in presenting a piece of theatre; i.e. make-up, lighting, props, etc..
5. Enable and develop skills of co-operation, understanding and comprehension of ideas.

Implementation

BTEC Tech Award Edexcel Specification

Drama is offered as part of the Performing Arts curriculum at the Academy. It is taught in tutor groups at Key Stage 3 (Year 7 and Year 8) and is an Option for Key Stage 4 and in the Sixth Form.

Key stage 3:

During Y7 and Y8 Key Stage 3 students have two lessons of Drama over the two-week timetable. All students are given the opportunity to practise their drama skills which they use to explore issues, themes and concepts and create scenarios. They learn to evaluate their own work and the work of others. The students are continuously assessed throughout the dramatic exploration on drama skills and personal and social skills.

Key stage 4:

In Y9, Y10 and Y11 Key Stage 4 students follow the BTEC Tech award in Performing Arts. This specification offers the students the opportunity to develop drama skills in acting, improvisation, devising and script work, following a set programme of study. They will also have the opportunity to develop their skills in directing and the technical side of drama.

BTEC Edexcel Specification

Key stage 5:

In Y12 and Y13 at Post-16, the students follow a BTEC Level 3 in Performing Arts course. The course aims to prepare students both for Further Education and a place of work in the performing arts industry. It involves the development of performance and research skills through an introduction to work in the performing arts industries and personal development through the practice of key performing arts skills

Impact

Drama is not simply a subject, but also - more importantly a creative art form in its own right and a learning tool. Furthermore drama is one of the key ways in which students gain an understanding of themselves and others, can gain confidence in themselves as decision makers and problem-solvers, can learn to function collaboratively and explore - within a supportive framework - not only a range of human feelings, but also a whole spectrum of social situations and/or moral dilemmas.

Enrichment opportunities-

The Drama department organises regular visits to the theatre for students and we also invite professional theatre companies into the Academy to perform and run workshops. We rehearse throughout the Autumn term for our Academy production which takes place in December. There are many opportunities in Drama such as: Trips to the theatre, School productions, Residential trip to New York (Feb 2020) and practitioners workshops delivered in small groups.