

Statement of Intent

We strive to continue celebrating the strong performing arts tradition that remains an integral part of our culture. All students are immersed in a highly inspirational and engaging theatrical experience, being provided with the opportunity to harness and develop their creativity through the exploration of the vocational and academic aspects of drama. In a highly stimulating and inclusive environment all pupils are challenged to deepen their knowledge, understanding and practical skills whilst studying a variety of contemporary, historical and World theatre whilst adapting to a range of performance spaces and using specialist industry-standard equipment. Through self-expression, creativity and empowerment, our students develop resilience and confidence to enter the world equipped with a diverse skillset that will help them succeed in any path they choose in life.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Students have one lesson per week dedicated to performing arts throughout key stage 3. During each year, students move round a carousel with Drama, Music and Dance each being taught for one full term. During KS3, students explore a variety of diverse plays, playwrights, theatre companies and practitioners with lessons focussing heavily on practical skills development. Students will learn about acting techniques from across the world and developing an understanding of how and why different styles have evolved.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Students can choose to focus on one or more of the performing arts disciplines at KS4 which contains a mix of either academic or vocational options. Each option subject is taught for 3 x 1 hour lessons per week.

In drama, students work towards an academic GCSE qualification which is still largely based on development of practical skills and techniques. Students learn about key drama practitioners and focus on works from set texts. Students also gain experience in devising drama in small groups using the skills and techniques they have gained throughout the course.

During the course, students will have the opportunity to attend live theatre shows, participate in workshops with industry professionals in order to help build their subject knowledge and understanding off the industry. Students will have the opportunity to perform their scripted extracts to a live audience in their final year, as a part of the Drama Department's 'Spring Awakening' Festival showcase.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum

We currently offer a performing arts course within our sixth-form in drama, which leads to vocational qualifications that compliment students either taking a mostly academic or vocational pathway. The BTEC Level 3 extended certificates on offer are equivalent to one full A level with students in lessons for 5 x 1 hour sessions per week. Students are also expected to supplement their learning during supervised study either in the sixth-form or specialist learning spaces i.e. Drama Studios; Recording Studio; Main Performance Space; Lighting Gallery

Performing Arts (Acting) is an excellent step up from GCSE drama as students work through units on key drama skills such as theatre in the community and screen acting whilst developing their own skills and knowledge to stage ambitious theatre performances within cutting-edge environments.

Extended Learning

What we offer to extend the learning of our students

- An annual whole-school production that brings together all of the performing arts disciplines
- Smaller events such as performances and showcases throughout the calendar year
- Shakespeare school festival event for year 8 drama students

- Extra-curricular clubs such as drama groups, Jack Petchey Challenges
- Trips to Performing Arts events and spaces near and far

What can parents do to support extended learning in this subject?

- Find opportunities to take your child to performing arts events such as plays, musicals and performances. Even a day-trip to watch some street performance in Covent Garden can be of huge benefit. Discounted events and ticket lotteries can be found on apps such as TodayTix. You can even attend events such as WestEndLive in Trafalgar Square which is an annual free event and has performances from nearly every West End show.
- Watch live performances using streaming platforms such as YouTube and Disney+
- Discuss the history and context that surrounded drama that were popular when you were younger. This understanding of history (even if very recent) is essential for our students to learn