YEAR 10 DRAMA – PARENT GUIDE

What will my child study?

Year 10 Drama represents an important stage in students' development as young theatre-makers and provides a **bridge between Key Stage 3 Drama and the demands of GCSE**.

Students continue to learn predominantly through practical exploration but are expected to become increasingly **independent and purposeful in their creative choices**. They consider theatre from the perspectives of performers, directors and designers and begin to articulate their ideas using appropriate theatrical terminology.

TERM 1 – INTERPRETING A SCRIPT Students undertake a detailed practical exploration of a script, considering how a written text can be transformed into live performance. They approach the play from three perspectives: actor, director and designer. This allows them to explore characterisation and performance alongside decisions involving staging, blocking, set, costume, lighting and sound. Students also begin to develop their written Drama skills, learning how to describe and justify theatrical choices clearly in response to questions modelled on the style and thinking required at GCSE.
TERM 2 – FRANTIC ASSEMBLY Students explore physical theatre through the work of leading contemporary theatre company Frantic Assembly. Through practical workshops, they investigate how performers can use the body, movement and relationships between actors to communicate meaning and tell stories. There is a particular emphasis on ensemble work, trust, collaboration and physical storytelling, before students apply the techniques they have explored to their own performance work.
TERM 3 – DEVISED THEATRE Students bring together their learning through an introduction to devised theatre. Beginning with a stimulus, groups generate and research ideas before experimenting with different theatrical approaches. They learn how to select, structure, rehearse and refine material to create an original piece of theatre with a clear intention for an audience. The unit culminates in an End-of-Year Performance Festival, giving students the opportunity to present their original work.

Preparing for GCSE Drama

Year 10 also introduces a small but important change: students will complete their first short written Drama assignment.

GCSE Drama includes a significant written component, with 40% assessed through a written examination. Year 10 therefore introduces students gradually to this aspect of the subject before they make their GCSE choices.

The focus is not simply on "writing more". Students learn how to use theatrical vocabulary, analyse a script and communicate and justify practical ideas in writing. This helps them understand that Drama involves both practical creativity and the ability to think critically about theatre.

What skills will Drama develop?

Students continue developing the confidence, communication, teamwork, organisation and problem-solving skills.