YEAR 9 DRAMA – PARENT GUIDE

What will my child study?

Year 9 Drama builds upon the confidence, teamwork and fundamental performance skills established in Year 8. Students begin to develop a more sophisticated understanding of how actors and directors make choices and how performance can change according to style, genre and theatrical intention.

Learning remains predominantly practical, allowing students to explore theatrical concepts through rehearsal, experimentation and performance.

TERM 1 – SCRIPT WORK

Students explore how written drama moves **from page to stage**, working with extracts from *Blood Brothers*, *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations* and *15 Reasons Not to Be in a Play*.
They develop their understanding of **character, plot, relationships, blocking and stage directions**, considering how an actor can interpret information within a script.

Students experiment with voice, movement and positioning before rehearsing and refining their performances.

TERM 2 – STYLES & PRACTITIONERS

Students are introduced to two influential theatre practitioners: **Konstantin Stanislavski and Bertolt Brecht**.
They explore the contrasting beliefs and approaches of each practitioner and learn how these ideas influence performance style. Students then apply what they have learned by **creating their own performances inspired by the techniques and intentions of each practitioner**.

This begins to develop students' understanding that theatrical choices are made for a reason and can create very different experiences for an audience.

TERM 3 – MIME & MELODRAMA

Students finish Year 9 by exploring two highly physical and expressive forms of performance.
Through **Mime**, they develop control of facial expression, gesture, movement and body language, learning to communicate clearly without dialogue.

Students then explore **Melodrama**, using scripts and practical activities to experiment with exaggerated characters, heightened emotions and bold storytelling. This gives students the opportunity to be playful and creative while developing greater physical confidence on stage.

What skills will Drama develop?

Across Year 9, students continue to develop the broader skills that Drama supports, including **confidence, communication, teamwork, organisation, problem-solving and speaking and listening**.
Alongside these, Year 9 develops more subject-specific skills in **script interpretation, characterisation, blocking, physical performance, theatrical style, practitioner knowledge, rehearsal and evaluation**.

How can I support my child?

You do not need any specialist Drama knowledge to support your child. Simply asking them **what they are rehearsing, what character they are playing, or why they have made a particular performance choice** can encourage them to think more deeply about their work.
You can also support them by helping with **line learning**, encouraging them to rehearse when appropriate and exposing them to different styles of live or recorded theatre.