



What will Year 12 students learn and how many lessons will they have each week?

In four hours a week, Year 12 students will begin with an introduction to a range of theatre practitioners working practically to develop and broaden their understanding of the theory that underpins theatre practice. This leads, in Year 12, to students' first practical component – Devising Theatre, worth 30% – which is completed in Year 12. Study of the first set text takes place in Year 12 where students will develop their own creative overview of the play including their ideas as a performer, director, and designer.

What will Year 12 students need to do to get the most out of their lessons?

Students need to have a genuine interest in theatre and desire to improve their practical performance skills. We encourage students to work outside of their performance comforts pushing them towards experimental styles and ensuring they demonstrate a contrast in their devised drama and their scripted drama. Students should ensure that they complete set reading and theory as this knowledge forms the basis of all practical work. Students should come to lessons equipped to work practically; this includes being comfortable in their clothes and footwear choices.

How much homework will Year 12 students have in this subject?

Students should expect to be completing two hours of homework per week. In some parts of the year this will be practical rehearsal, which can sometimes be completed in 'free' periods. Homework could also be reading theory or extracts from plays, and written homework could be analysis and evaluation. It is important to keep on top of homework as you will be set homework by both of your teachers for different elements of the course.

Which careers can this subject lead to?

Studying Drama and Theatre might be the start of your career, or further study in acting and performance. However, as you will learn, Theatre is not just about performance and there are a wealth of careers in creative industries outside of acting: technical theatre, directing, playwriting, dramaturgy, arts administration, entertainment. Combining with other skills, an A Level in Drama and Theatre could also lead you to careers in TV and film, education, administration, broadcasting, casting, community work, drama therapy and journalism amongst many others

Which other subjects complement this subject?

Drama and Theatre pairs really well with other creative subjects such as Art, Art Textiles, Music, Music Technology, Product Design, and Media Studies. In terms of subjects that support the skills taught in Drama and Theatre, English Literature suits very well in addition to History and Psychology. These subjects have extended essay writing, and learning to analyse literature, having an understanding of key time periods, and understanding why humans behave in particular ways will all contribute to a broader understanding of Drama and Theatre.

Can students choose the plays they perform as part of the scripted performance?

During the first half term of Year 12, students will be introduced to a range of theatre practitioners and your teachers will watch your performance skills so they can learn where your strengths and areas for development as an actor are. With this in mind, plays will be picked in discussion with students but your teachers will know you best and will ensure you are performing something with an appropriate level of challenge. In 2020, our AQA A Level examiner commended us for selecting “an impressive level of contrast and challenge for students”; therefore, we are confident that we will choose plays in which you have the potential to be successful.

How are the set texts chosen?

AQA gives us a list of six plays in two lists for Component 1, Sections A and B. We select the plays that we teach you once we have met you as a cohort as we want to ensure you will enjoy the plays but also that they will offer the right challenges for you as a group. In recent years, for Section A, the set text we have taught has been ‘The Caucasian Chalk Circle’ by Bertolt Brecht, and in Section B, we have taught either ‘Our Country’s Good’ by Timberlake Wertenbaker or ‘Metamorphosis’ by Steven Berkoff.

What have students who have taken A Level Drama and Theatre gone on to do?

Many of our students go on to pursue further study at university. From our 2020 cohort, we have one student going to the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) to study Technical Theatre. Students are also at university studying English Literature, History and Music Technology. From previous cohorts, students have gone on to study Theatre and Education in York, and Drama and Theatre Arts at Goldsmith’s in London. Some students have taken gap years to work and save money before taking up their deferred entry university places.