



## Drama and Theatre Studies

Our Key Stage Three course is designed to develop students' communication, co-operation and confidence. We develop various transferable skills through drama games and activities.

We begin with more basic dramatic skills in Year 7 and develop these across the three years to build up the skills in the students' tool box. We use varied scripts from 'Clever Else' and Melodrama in Year 7 through to more hard hitting drama like 'Hard to Swallow' in Year 9, which uses physical theatre to explore a true story. We also develop the girls skills in devising and improvising drama. Sometimes this is over a few lessons or sometimes spontaneously improvising to have the girls thinking on their feet and being creative. The girls reflect on their own work and that of others and discuss the many positive points and also how it could be improved in the future. The girls develop the trust within their group to be able to perform and the resilience to hear constructive criticism and use this for learning.

Our GCSE Drama course is very practical and supports girls to develop their ability to perform and articulate well for an audience. Many professions, other than acting require this skill and the girls enjoy lessons.

We study AQA GCSE, which includes a written examination at the end of the course. The students undertake two pieces of practical coursework and achieve a mark for their performance and also for a written report on the process. We take our students to visit the theatre at least three times during their course so they are able to see professional theatre in various styles. This informs not only their practical work but also to discuss and reflect on the work they have seen for the examination. Our practical coursework continues to be of a very high standard, with some students achieving full marks and this is showcased on one evening during the course, for an invited audience.

The A Level course continues to develop the creativity and confidence of our girls. We have many girls continue to study Drama alongside their other A-Levels as they enjoy the work so very much. It is an academic course respected by universities. We follow the AQA A-level course which follows on nicely from our GCSE, where the students have built up a strong skill base to extend their studies. The girls study a number of challenging texts and styles such as Greek Theatre, Commedia dell'arte and Berkoff. There are 3 sections to answer on the written examination at the end of the course and also two coursework projects. The coursework makes up 60% of the assessment and is comprised of both performance and written marks. The girls very much enjoy the practical aspect of the work, which has been of an exceptional standard for some years now. Their work is innovative and remarked highly upon by the visiting moderator. These are showcased on evenings in February and October for an invited audience.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

These are listed in our Drama section and include lunchtime clubs for the lower years. We also have a school production, whether it be a school play or musical open to various year groups each year. Some of our past successes have included 'Wizard of Oz', 'Joseph', 'Pygmalion' and entries into the Shakespeare for Schools Festival.

Please click this link for various production photos.