



Subject: DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES **Exam Board: Edexcel**
Levels available: AS (1 year) and A2 (Additional 2nd year)

Subject Leader: Miss A Ashwell

Course Information:

*** What do I need to know or be able to do before choosing this subject?**

A basic grounding in practical drama will help you in this subject. Most candidates will be expected to have gained a GCSE grade C in Drama or Performing Arts. GCSE grade C in English Language or Literature is also required. You should have a wide interest in the Performing Arts, both as a participant and a spectator. You should be willing to challenge your own experiences and your pre-conceptions about Theatre.

You must enjoy debate and be able to order your ideas in written form. All students will use acting as a basic tool of understanding the theoretical element of the course. You may, however, choose other aspects of practical Theatre, such as Directing, Lighting, Sound or Costume Design as your examination specialism.

*** What does the course consist of and how will it be assessed?**

The AS (Advanced Subsidiary) Specification

This is the first half of the full A level course. If you and your teacher agree that it's best for you, you can take the AS level on its own during or at the end of Year 12. The final grade will count towards entry to Further/Higher Education.

The AS level is made up of three units:

Unit 1: Exploration of Drama & Theatre Studies **30% AS or 15% A level**
Study of two plays through workshops, assessed on practical work and exploration notes.
Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Unit 2: Text in Performance **40% AS or 20% A level**
Performance of a role within the production of a play, directed by your tutor.
Externally examined.

Unit 3: Text in Context I **30% AS or 15% A level**
Examination questions relating to the play performed in Unit 2 and analysis of productions seen.
Externally set and assessed (2 hour examination)

Course Information:

The ADVANCED LEVEL (AS + A2) Specification

The full Advanced level qualification is made up of the 3 AS Units plus 3 more Units studied at A2 level. If you decide to continue with the second half of the course in Year 13 you will study the following additional Units.

Unit 4: Devising

20% of A level

Performance of an original group devised piece.
Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Unit 5: Text in Performance II

15% of A level

Further in depth study of another contrasting play resulting in a student directed performance.
Externally set and assessed (1½ hour exam)

Unit 6: Text in Context II

15% of A level

Study of two further plays, one being a set text, the other a chosen play dating from 1575-1720.
Externally examined (2½ hour exam)

*** How could I develop Key Skills by doing this course?**

As well as covering the study of *Drama & Theatre Studies*, the AS/A2 courses will enable you to develop key skills. Your teacher will let you know when a particular piece of work also accounts for Key Skills assessment as well as for *Drama & Theatre Studies* assessment. You will need to keep evidence of this work in a Portfolio for assessment later if you wish to gain a Key Skills qualification. During this course examples of key skills could include:

Communication e.g. performance work to live audience; written essays.

Application of Number e.g. administration of performance budget; ticket allocation.

Information & Communication Technology e.g. use of lighting equipment; use of video recording equipment.

Improving own learning & performance e.g. self analysis in rehearsal.

Problem solving e.g. assessing group dynamics; using space.

Working with others e.g. group practicals.

*** What I could go on to do after the course?**

Further studies in Theatre or Drama, performance work, technical theatre careers, drama/speech therapy, media work, Arts administration. The skills used on this course are also transferable to all people professions such as nursing, law, teaching, youth/recreational work and social work.