

# DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

## A LEVEL COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will follow the WJEC A Level specification. This is a two year course. There are 3 assessed components. The first component will be assessed during Year 12 and the second and third components will be assessed at the end of Year 13.

During Year 12 we will explore practically the ideas of different theatre practitioners as well as the 3 set texts for the written exam in Year 13. The emphasis will be on practical work. We will also go on lots of theatre trips!

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

In order to enrol on this course, students must achieve a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE English as well as a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE Drama.



"I am really pleased that I chose Drama and Theatre Studies. There is an amazing atmosphere in the lessons. We have learnt about different genres of performance, but lots of the skills are also useful in other areas, for example, learning to work effectively in groups. I think these skills will really help to improve my application to university and widen my choices in the future."

*Year 12 Student*

"I really enjoy the opportunities we have to perform. You can't beat the buzz you get when you perform to an audience. We've also been on lots of theatre trips and the opportunity to see lots of different types of performances has helped to improve my own work. The teachers are really helpful and supportive – we work hard, but it's worth it."

*Year 13 Student*



## Progression

Some of our students will progress onto university or drama school to study one of the wide variety of courses connected to Drama and Theatre such as acting, directing, design, stage management, community arts, or arts in education.

Many students choose Drama and Theatre Studies to support their development in other areas of learning. They go on to pursue courses in Law, Psychology, English, Media or Business to name just a few. The course equips students with transferable skills which are highly attractive to universities as well as employers. The ability to work co-operatively with others and to find creative solutions to a range of challenges while presenting yourself confidently remains central to many careers.







## ASSESSMENT

### COMPONENT 1: THEATRE WORKSHOP

(20%)

The first component will be assessed during Year 12. You will work in a group to deconstruct an extract from an existing play to create an original piece of theatre. You will use the ideas of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. You will also complete a creative log – a working document which contains an explanation of the creative process (this can include annotated research, diagrams, photographs etc.)

### COMPONENT 2: TEXT IN ACTION

(40%)

You will work in a group to create two performances:

- a devised piece using the methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company;
- a performance of an extract from a play in a contrasting style.

The performances will be assessed by a visiting examiner towards the end of Year 13. Upon completion of the practical work, you will write a process and evaluation report on both pieces.

### COMPONENT 3: TEXT IN PERFORMANCE (40%)

At the end of Year 13, you will sit a written exam in which you will be expected to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of how theatrical performances are made. Across the two year course, we will study 3 different plays and, in the exam, you will write about how you think the plays should be performed. This will include writing about any other theatrical performances you have been to see and explaining how they have influenced you.

### ENRICHMENT AND STUDY SUPPORT

- Regular theatre visits are an integral part of the course. We encourage all students to go to the theatre independently but we organise lots of trips as well!
- Additional rehearsal times will be scheduled in the periods leading up to exam performances, including late evenings, Saturday school and during holidays.
- Teachers will provide additional targeted support to prepare students for the written examinations.

## Routes for Success - Arts

The Routes to Success Programme is designed for ALL students in Year 12 at St Angela's Ursuline 6th Form. The ARTS programme aims to offer students opportunities to work with both industry and universities, opportunities will include links with; Pitch It, The British Museum, The National Gallery,

Central St Martin's, Central School of Speech and Drama, London College of Contemporary Fashion, The Royal Academy of Music, Trinity Laban and London Contemporary Dance. Summer school opportunities will include links with; Liverpool Hope, Holts and Ravensbourne.

Please note- All Year 12 students will select one main 'Route for Success' from these in order to experience a specialist enrichment and learning support programme. It will, of course, be possible to select a subject/subjects from another route on your timetable. We base our Routes to Success Programme on the university curriculum structure and university links are not exclusive to one route, so can be accessed by all students.

