



CURRICULUM INTENT

Drama

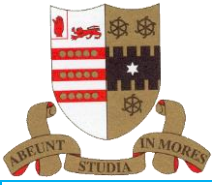
- **Challenge** lies at the heart of our curriculum. It goes beyond what is statutory or typical; students are encouraged to deepen their understanding of the fundamentals of their learning at every opportunity.
- Our curriculum is fully **inclusive**. All students have access to a broad range of experiences for as long as possible, regardless of prior attainment or additional needs.
- Our curriculum is **knowledge rich**, with subject curricula designed to ensure that any 'powerful' knowledge and skills that are critical to future success are regularly re-visited.
- Our curriculum is **expertly planned** and is therefore sequenced to enable students to build their knowledge and skills towards ambitious agreed end points.
- Wherever appropriate our curriculum gives students the opportunity to **personalise** their experience, thereby facilitating enjoyment and success for all.
- The importance of reading and wider **literacy** skills is a key thread that runs through our curriculum. As well as broadening students' vocabulary, all subjects will develop students' subject-specific literacy, so they can speak, read and write as, for example, a Historian, an Artist or a Physicist.
- A carefully considered and inclusive **extra-curricular** programme supports broader and deeper understanding of the taught curriculum, as well as developing the cultural capital our young people need to be global citizens.
- Students' **personal development**, including careers education, is central to our curriculum, through all subject areas, as well as PSHE lessons, tutor time, assemblies and off-timetable activities.
- Homework and summative **assessment** tasks are strategically designed to promote the concepts of regular review and spaced practice, therefore contributing to a long-term retention of knowledge and skills.

All students, including those with additional needs, have access to the Drama curriculum. In KS3, Drama is a compulsory subject, which can then be chosen for GCSE and A level if students wish to pursue their studies of the subject. As a department, we have high expectations and scaffold for those who require additional support. From Year 7 upwards, students are taught both acting and design skills in Drama, challenging their understanding of theatrical processes. In KS3, students are expected to engage in project design work, from costume design to set and props. In KS4 and KS5, students are expected to engage with super-curricular materials, including wider reading/research, mini-lectures, and watching of recorded productions, to challenge and further their learning of examination specification content.

To ensure that the curriculum is fully accessible, teachers adapt resources and provide writing frames for those with additional needs, as well as liaising with the AEN team. As a department, we strongly believe in providing a curriculum that is inclusive in terms of diversity too. As such, across all Key Stages, schemes of work are designed to broaden students' knowledge of the world, past and present, to enhance their cultural capital. Our curriculum design therefore aims to reflect the wide range of experiences and cultural backgrounds of our students and beyond, exploring topics and scripts featuring differing cultures, genders, and ethnicities, etc.

Drama is a subject that continually builds upon prior learning; the curriculum is carefully designed to support students in retaining prior knowledge and skills so that they can be applied and linked to future learning. Students are supported in their long-term retention of such knowledge and skills through regular revisiting and practising, in both written and practical work. In terms of knowledge, retrieval practice takes place in lessons and through homework activities, across all Key Stages. Practical acting and design skills covered in Drama are built into every scheme of work from Year 7 upwards, increasing in challenge. Knowledge and skills are assessed via written work, design work, and performance, in addition to homework and summative assessments (written and practical). Where practical or written work show gaps in learning, these are revisited and addressed to ensure students continue to progress.

We strive for students to not only develop their knowledge and skills in Drama, but to enjoy the subject too. The texts and topics covered therefore aim to not only challenge students but to develop their passion for the subject too. Elements of personalisation is therefore provided, whether that is through choice of tasks or choice of focus for devising and scripted work.



As a subject, the importance and development of literacy skills is vital. Throughout all Key Stages, students are taught subject-specific vocabulary, which is frequently used and revisited. A core part of our lessons is performance, and through this the importance of oracy skills and communication is promoted. Ultimately, such skills are developed to create confident readers, writers, and speakers, who are effectively prepared for their future, in school and beyond.

Extra-curricular opportunities are hugely important in developing students' knowledge and enjoyment of Drama beyond the curriculum. Access to such opportunities also broadens students' understanding of the range of ways Drama, and its skills, are relevant to life and careers. The department run regular theatre trips, in addition to creating a whole school production each year. Due to the nature of the subject, students explore texts and topics that also provide links to PSHE, such as diversity, equality, relationships, and mental health.

