

Drama and Theatre Studies A Level

Entry Requirement: Grade 7 in Drama or Grade 7 in English Literature

Awarding Body: EDEXCEL

Entry Requirements

It is important that students are interested in gaining a greater understanding of how theatre and plays work and that you are keen to be involved in performances. An A grade in GCSE English or English Literature is a minimum requirement for studying this course. Drama GCSE is not necessary.

About the Course

The course provides an opportunity to study plays from the point of view of a director, designer, performer and critic. The qualification is designed to enable students to acquire a knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre as well as to develop their performing and analytical skills.

The course is designed to provide a balance across a range of learning activities. The course combines the activities of exploring plays, creating theatre, the performing of plays, the analysis of theatre and the critical evaluation of all of these elements.

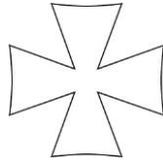
In devising theatre, students alternate roles between being playwright, performer, designer and director and apply their knowledge of different theatre forms and structures gained throughout the course.

In performing theatre, students are required to apply their knowledge, skills and understanding within the structure of a director's interpretation of a play and to operate at a highly intellectual level as well as at a highly skilled practical level. Throughout the course students will develop the confidence to operate more autonomously and with confidence within a drama and theatre context.

In the role of director, students are given the opportunity to determine their own interpretation of a play. As informed critics they are expected to make independent judgements in their analysis of the way other directors, designers and performers have applied their craft to the production of a play.

Why choose to study Drama and Theatre Studies at K.E.S.?

K.E.S. has a reputation for excellence in Drama and consistently achieves outstanding results at A Level. The school has strong links with many professional theatre companies, performing in venues such as The Royal Shakespeare Theatre and The Globe Theatre. The Drama Department also performs at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival biannually enabling students in the Sixth Form to experience cutting edge theatre in a professional context.



The Drama Department's production history has long been admired for the range and quality of the work both in terms of performance skill and technical expertise and the course will involve participation in these Drama productions. Furthermore, with many fantastic local theatres, some of which are just on our doorstep, students will be provided with many opportunities to attend live theatrical performances.

How will the course be taught?

The course has strong practical orientation, combined with written coursework and more theoretical study. Students need to be prepared for working in small and large groups in a co-operative manner, learning how to negotiate, share ideas and arrive at informed decisions. Students are encouraged to express personal opinions and engage in lively and challenging debates. Students will be expected to develop skills of self-discipline and organisation, as they have to produce student generated work, engage in research and attend rehearsals in their own time.

How is the course organised and assessed?

The course consists of two coursework components and one externally examined paper.

Component 1: Devising

Coursework: 40% of the qualification

Students devise an original performance piece using **one key extract** from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli. Performer or designer routes available.

Component 2: Text in Performance

Externally Assessed: 20% of the qualification

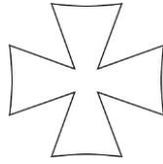
This unit is an externally examined performance of a monologue/duologue and a group performance.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

40% of the qualification

This unit includes live theatre evaluation and the study of two plays, with a specific focus on how these can be realised for performance.



What next?

This is an exciting and challenging course which in recent years has seen students leave to study a variety of courses in higher education. For example BA (Hons) Theatre: Writing, Directing and Performance at York University, BA (Hons) Acting at Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, BA (Hons) Drama and Theatre, Aberystwyth University. Furthermore, due to the broad nature of Drama developing skills such as team work, collaboration and confidence students have also thrived in other higher education contexts.

Students completing the course successfully will have a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, highly toned analytical and creative skills and an ability to communicate effectively with others.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs Nightingale, Head of Drama & Performance

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