



SIXTH FORM

Theatre Studies

Edexcel
AS 8DR01/A2 9DR01



WHY CHOOSE THEATRE STUDIES?

The A/AS course is not intended merely for those who wish to pursue a career in the theatre. Students will be encouraged to develop a wide range of life skills and a critical and sensitive response to the complexities of theatre.

HOW USEFUL WILL IT BE?

Theatre Studies A Level can lead to continued study of theatre and related subjects at college or university and develops those qualities that are sought by companies that advertise career vacancies in, for example, Public Relations, Personnel Management, Advertising, Journalism, Sales, Media & Communications.

WHAT WILL YOU NEED TO DO TO BE SUCCESSFUL?

To study this subject you will need a minimum of five GCSE subjects at Grade A*-C. You need to have studied Drama in Years 10 and 11 and to have achieved a B grade. This will ensure you have the necessary skills to undertake the range of demanding practical and written work. A strong background in English (i.e. an A or B at GCSE) is also vital.

Students who take Theatre Studies will do so because they have an interest in Drama and wish to extend their knowledge and understanding of Theatre. Whilst every effort is made to approach the courses in a practical way it must be emphasised that there is a very strong academic element and students will be expected to write essays and read in depth in addition to presentation and performance work.

Students must be aware that the courses demand a considerable amount of their own time, both after school and on the occasional Sunday. Attendance at these rehearsals is vital in order to achieve a high standard of presentation. Another exciting aspect of the course is theatre trips and, again, all students are expected to participate as often as possible.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY ON THE COURSE IN YEAR 12 – THE AS LEVEL?

In Unit 1 (40%) you will study two plays from production and performance viewpoints. This work will be varied between practical workshops and written exploration notes. At least one of the plays will be studied in relation to a recognised theatre practitioner. Additionally, students will review at least one play seen in performance.

In Unit 2 (60%), students will select and perform either a monologue or a duologue. They will also take part in a teacher directed group production.

HOW IS THE AS LEVEL ASSESSED?

Both the practical and written work of Unit 1 is assessed internally. Unit 2 is assessed through a visiting external examiner. There is no written paper in AS Theatre Studies.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY ON THE COURSE IN YEAR 13 – THE A2 LEVEL?

Unit 3 involves building on the students' experience gained at AS Level and generating an original devised piece of drama in small groups.

In Unit 4, plays will be studied from a historical and performance perspective in relation to the work of different practitioners and playwrights.

Analysis and response to a variety of plays and production techniques are integral to the course.

HOW IS THE A2 LEVEL ASSESSED?

The A2 course is assessed throughout the year in a similar way to the AS Level and it culminates in a final written paper, examining areas explored both practically and theoretically.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOU HAVE TO SPEND ON PRIVATE STUDY/RESEARCH?

AS Level: at least 4 hours per week.

A2 Level: at least 5 hours per week.

In both years students will need to rehearse after school on several days a week for part of the course(s).

