

## **ADVANCED HIGHER DRAMA – *This is taught as a campus course at Perth Grammar in Col D***

Advanced Higher Drama is a very demanding course, requiring a mature and independent approach to all tasks completed. Advanced Higher extends students' knowledge and skills beyond Higher. Students will face new academic and personal challenges, requiring them to develop their knowledge and abilities, and to think and most importantly work independently. The course also allows learners to specialise in a practical aspect of theatre, either directing, acting or design. It develops abilities in research, investigation and textual analysis to arrive at performance concepts for a prescribed text. The course maintains an emphasis on interaction and teamwork, while seeking also to provide opportunities for independent learning and supported self-study.

The Course consists of three mandatory Units:

### **1) *Devised Drama***

In this unit, candidates will use skills of creative drama and dramaturgy to explore a selected theme. A range of themes will be prescribed each year by the Scottish Qualifications Authority. These will not be 'issues' but broader areas, such as 'the sea', 'metamorphosis', 'imprisonment', 'love'.

### **2) *Twentieth-Century Theatre – Theories of Performance***

Candidates will be presented with an overview of 20th-century theories of directing and acting in order to study and explore the theories and practices of **two** leading 20th-century theatre practitioners selected from a prescribed list. Candidates should be able to translate theory into practice from the perspectives of actor and director and should investigate the influence of these practitioners on current theatre practice within and outwith Scotland.

### **3) *Drama: Special Study***

In this unit, candidates will opt to specialise in an aspect of performance - acting or direction or design. The special study will focus on the process of translating text (from a prescribed list) into theatre within the chosen option.

The aim of the Advanced Higher Course is to allow the exploration of relationships in the context of the study of the art of theatre. This is achieved by exploring drama and performance skills and studying leading world theatre practitioners. Candidates will also study drama through direct experience of live theatrical performance, which will illuminate knowledge and understanding of the practice of theatre.

## **FORM OF ASSESSMENT FOR BOTH COURSES**

The majority of the assessment is in written form. Essays, reading and analysing of texts as well as learning lines will be set as homework and a written and practical examination will be taken in the summer.

There is continuous internal assessment. For external assessment pupils will sit a question paper continuing extended response questions. For Higher practical external assessment pupils will perform two ten minute acting pieces in groups or chose to direct or design a production. For Advanced Higher pupils will perform/ direct or design from a selected text in more detail and complete a dissertation on their chosen text.

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

It is essential that students are prepared to undertake a large part of the written work as homework. Class work will be both practical and theoretical and homework will be heavy. Students must also be prepared to attend theatre productions in the evening, particularly at higher level. Students must be willing to commit to the course and give of their own time afterschool and at lunch to meet to rehearse. The courses are academically challenging and are assessed by both practical and written work. Commitment to the department is essential.

## **PROGRESSION**

Pupils undertaking higher in S5 will have the opportunity to progress onto Advanced Higher drama. Advanced Higher pupils will have the opportunity to prepare for auditions for drama schools, to read drama at University or college but most importantly the skills learnt and encouraged within the subject are undoubtedly precious tools which are of benefit in all walks of life regardless of your career path.