

SUBJECT: - DRAMA – (National 5)

What are the aims of this course?

- generate and communicate thoughts and ideas when creating drama
- develop a knowledge and understanding of a range of social and cultural influences on drama
- develop a range of skills when presenting drama
- develop knowledge, understanding and the use of a range of production skills when presenting drama.
- explore form, structure, genre and style

What will I be learning about in this course?

This course comprises of two main Units.

Drama Skills: focuses on the development of devised drama from a variety of stimuli and learners are expected to perform using voice and movement.

Drama Production Skills: learners respond and develop concepts, applying ideas to create a performance using: acting, costume; make up; sound; lighting; props and set design. Learners will be expected to undertake two of these production roles and associated written support logs. Each Unit culminates in a performance. After each role, learners should be given opportunities to discuss their role and the roles of others within the performance. During this process, teachers/lecturers will use open-ended questions to prompt and guide learners' discussion and to confirm the learners' understanding of their use of drama form, genre, style, conventions and structure. Through discussion of the process, decisions made and end performance; learners should develop their ability to evaluate, in written form, their own concepts.

Working with others to share and use drama ideas

Learners work in a variety of groups of differing sizes. In the Drama Skills Unit, learners are expected to participate and contribute to their group's performance as an Actor, using appropriate voice, movement and language. In Drama: Production Skills Unit, while the whole group works to the selected stimuli and/or texts, individual learners develop an awareness of all production areas in order to make connections between them.

For all units, learners should demonstrate their ability to respond to and develop ideas through class/group discussions. Evidence could be recorded in a number of ways — audio, video, written and/or oral such as mind-maps/diaries/logbooks/folios developing knowledge and understanding of social and cultural influences when creating drama.

What skills will I develop?

As well as acting, directing and scriptwriting, you will be encouraged to improve your research, presentation and evaluative skills. Learners will also be honing transposable skills in analysis, creative skills, thinking skills, and developing communication, cooperation, concentration and commitment. Furthermore, drama course requires learners to practice observation and reflection (of self and others), develop questioning and considerate evaluation.

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

A variety of teaching approaches, from teacher-led discussions to activities, workshops and individual work. The majority of work will be group-based. As well as extracurricular activities, learners will also take part in learning experiences in school and externally with focuses on voice, movement, characterisation, participation in the Onstage project in conjunction with Dundee Rep.

How will I be assessed?

Drama includes physical and written activities. All learners will maintain a folio of work for each unit to present as evidence to the SQA. Additionally, the classroom teacher will also assess each student on an individual basis through observation, discussion and self/peer assessment. National 4 learners will undertake both Unit 1 and Unit 2 and complete an Added Value Unit. National 5 learners complete Unit 1 and Unit 2. Additionally National 5 learners will perform/present creatively an extract from a script for an external examiner (this is worth 60% of the overall grade and includes a written Preparation for Performance). Please note: for this presentation learners can specialise in any of the production roles explored above. Finally, they will undertake a written paper as part of the SQA exam diet (this is worth 40% of the overall grade)

What are the homework requirements?

Homework is given to extend learning and teaching beyond the classroom and as such will vary depending on the needs of the course. Typically, homework may include preparation for an upcoming lesson as well as folio work, writing scripts, learning lines and undertaking research. Learners will also be expected to attend extra rehearsals at lunch time and/or after school, particularly close to examination deadlines. It is desirable, but not compulsory, that pupils to attend professional performances.

What might this course lead to in the future?

The study of Drama at Higher level
A lifelong appreciation for Drama in all its forms.
Confidence-building skills that may be used within other subjects and presentations.