

DRAMA – (Higher)

What are the aims of this course?

Drama provides opportunities for learners to develop skills and understanding of the skills required and the processes involved in creating and presenting drama. For Higher Drama pupils, this course focuses on the development and use of complex drama skills and production skills to present drama. This Course is practical and experiential.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ generate and communicate thoughts and ideas when creating drama
- ◆ develop knowledge and understanding of the historical, social and cultural influences on drama
- ◆ develop skills in presenting and analysing drama
- ◆ develop knowledge and understanding of production skills when presenting drama
- ◆ explore form, structure, genre and style

As learners develop practical skills creating and presenting drama, they will also develop knowledge and understanding of the cultural and social influences on drama. Learners will analyse and evaluate how the use of self-expression, language and movement can develop their ideas for drama. Learners will develop critical thinking skills as they investigate and develop complex drama skills.

What will I be learning about in this course?

As learners develop practical skills creating and presenting drama, they will also develop knowledge and understanding of the cultural and social influences on drama. Learners will analyse and evaluate how the use of self-expression, language and movement can develop their ideas for drama. Learners will develop critical thinking skills as they investigate and develop drama skills. The Higher course is made up of two main Units: Drama Skills (voice, movement, characterisation, drama processes, research and directing) and Drama Production Skills (articulating and realising design concepts, including acting, lighting, sound, make up, costume, props, set design). Higher learners will be expected to develop more complex and creative ideas and concepts. For each unit, pupils will be consolidating and evaluating their Acting, Directing and Design concepts.

What skills will I develop?

As learners develop practical skills in performing, they will develop cultural awareness of drama. Learners will develop organisational, team working, problem-solving and critical thinking skills as they explore and develop drama skills, structural devices and conventions. They will also investigate production skills, using theatre arts technology and production skills to design, create and enhance their performance and the performances of others. Furthermore, drama course requires learners to practice observation and reflection, develop questioning and considerate evaluation of their own and other's academic, cultural and creative contribution.

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

A variety of teaching approaches, from teacher-led discussions to activities, practical workshops and individual work. The majority of work will be group-based. Learners will also take part in extra-curricular learning experiences, attending shows and participating in workshops and using a variety of different technologies to enhance their ideas.

The externally examined practical exam requires learners to work both collaboratively and independently on their selected text and develop a performance concept within their production area.

How will I be assessed?

Drama work will include physical activities, preparation and maintenance of folios of work for each unit to present as evidence to the SQA. Evidence of this understanding may also be visible in for example, rehearsal logs, diaries, creative concepts, folios in which they evaluate their ongoing progress. Additionally, the classroom teacher will also assess each student on an individual basis through observation, discussion and peer assessment. Learners can specialise in Acting, Directing or in Design. For the final, externally examined assessment, the learners will prepare creatively on extracts from a selection of texts (worth 60% of overall grade of which 10% is the student's written record of their Preparation for Performance) and undertake a final written assessment as part of the SQA examination diet (worth 40% of overall grade).

For Higher learners the SQA question paper is comprised of two essays:

Section 1 – The study of a text to show social, historical and theatrical context

Section 2 – Performance Analysis (of a live production performed within the last two years)

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 will involve preparation of a following lesson as well as folio work. Class work will be focused on the practical and theoretical elements for each Unit, although preparation and planning time is allocated for written assignments, it is essential that learners are prepared and practice a large part of the written assignments as homework. Learners must also be prepared to attend theatre productions in the evening. Learners must be willing to commit to the course and give of their own time afterschool and at lunch to meet to rehearse.

What might this course lead to in the future?

The study of Drama at Advanced Higher level and/or further study in employment or tertiary education

A lifelong appreciation for Drama in all its forms

Confidence-building and creative thinking skills that may be used within other subjects and presentations