



GCSE Drama

Wales High School - Year 9 Subject Options

GCSE Drama offers you the opportunity to develop a whole range of skills which will prepare you for life after GCSE study, including: collaboration, problem solving, creative and critical thinking, leadership, teamwork, as well as boosting your confidence and presentational skills.

Subject Content - What will you be doing?

This two year course is made up of three individual modules of study.

- Understanding Drama:** develop an understanding of drama and theatre through the study of a long-standing published play. Elements of study include genre, structure, character, form, mood and atmosphere, staging and sub-text. In addition to this we also explore the cultural, historical and social implications of the play, along with how meaning is communicated. We also visit theatres to watch live performances of stage productions. Previous visits have included: RSC / Troilus and Cressida; Lyceum / Everyone's Talking About Jamie; Broadway / Come from Away.
- Devising Drama:** this practical element teaches and develops key skills such as: carrying out independent research; collaborative working; self-reflection; analysis and evaluation. You will work in a group to create your own original ideas which will be performed in front of a live audience. Each student must choose to participate as either: performer, lighting designer, set designer, costume designer, sound designer, or puppet designer.
- Texts in Practice:** the second practical unit in the qualification commences in Y11 when students explore a range of diverse plays. From here, students select two sections from their preferred script which must be performed in front of a live examiner from AQA. As with Devising Drama, students can opt to be assessed as a performer or as a designer. Students may also perform a monologue, duologue or group piece for either or both of their selections.

Key Points about the Subject

GCSE Drama is assessed both practically and via formal exam.

Unit 1 = formal exam at the end of the 2 year course. This makes up 40% of your GCSE qualification.

Unit 2 = This is assessed throughout the programme of study and includes a practical performance and writing a Devising Log worth 40% of your GCSE qualification (Non-exam assessment – NEA).

Unit 3 = is also a practical assessment of two extracts from an established play of your choice. This is worth 20% of your final GCSE grade (NEA).

As part of the course, students are required to participate in the department's Drama Showcase.

Who can I speak to for more information?

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