

**HEATHCOTE SCHOOL & SCIENCE
COLLEGE**

DRAMA DEPARTMENT



**A LEVEL DRAMA & THEATRE
STUDIES**

TRANSITION GUIDE

2018-2019

Well Done!

You have successfully completed your GCSE in Drama and lots of other subjects to enable you to achieve a place on the A Level Drama course.

NOW, JUST TAKE A MOMENT TO REFLECT ON YOUR POSITION NOW

What do you feel are your strengths in this subject?

What do you feel you need to improve on?

Where would you like to be in a year's time?

How are you going to get there?

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM OUR STUDENTS

ATTENDANCE

Poor attendance will result in poor results. Punctuality is essential. Drama is about group work. If you are not there it affects the rest of the class and their results too.

AN OPEN MIND

You will experience lots of new techniques and skills. You need to be open to working closely with your teachers and listen to their advice. The work will be challenging but it all has learning outcomes. Some of it may even be fun!

INDEPENDENT LEARNING

You will be expected to work outside of the lesson. Detailed notes must be kept of classwork. This enables you to write your pieces of coursework successfully. You will have to learn scripts. You will be expected to complete research. Don't waste your study periods, use them effectively.

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM

We expect you to speak to us, if you feel you are struggling with the work let us know, If you would just like a little bit of help with a particular aspect of the course speak to us! We are not mind readers so communication is essential between teachers and students.

Summary of the A Level Course

The course consists of one coursework component, one practical examination and one externally assessed examined paper. Students must complete all three areas to achieve the qualification.

Component 1: Devising (9DRO/01)

Coursework: 40% of the final qualification

Content Overview

Devise an original piece of Drama based on an extract from a published play and exhibiting influences and knowledge of a drama practitioner.

Assessment Overview

A performance to an invited audience and a written portfolio of between 2500 and 3000 words.

Component 2: Text in Performance (9DRO/02)

Performance: 20% of the qualification

Content Overview

A group performance of an extract from a published play

A monologue/duologue performance of an extract from a published play

Assessment Overview

Externally Assessed by a visiting examiner

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (9DRO/03)

Written Examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes (40%)

Content Overview

Analysis and review of a live theatre production

Exploration of the play text *That Face* by Polly Stenham

Study and development for performance of the play *Woyzeck* for a contemporary audience by Georges Buchner

Assessment Overview

Marked externally by the exam board

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREPARE YOURSELF FOR STUDYING A LEVEL DRAMA?

Read some of the plays listed previously in the specification

Research the lives of Drama Practitioners and their methods of working with actors.

These could include:

- Bertolt Brecht
 - Stanislavski
 - Artaud
 - Berkoff
-
- Go to the Royal Court Theatre in London with your friends and see a production as this is where 'That Face' was first performed, a play you will be studying
-
- Research the life of Georges Buchner
-
- Learn about the history of Modern theatre and make a timeline of significant events and plays in history. What else was happening at that time?
-
- Buy a copy of the Edexcel text book for Drama 2016 specification and start reading it. It has lots of useful information and tips from examiners.
-
- Using the internet start researching monologues or duologues you may be interested in performing. Good starting points include Metamorphosis by Steven Berkoff, 4.48 Psychosis by Sarah Kane or East by Steven Berkoff. All of these would be suitable and challenging to perform for your A Level performance.