

Drama Curriculum Overview

Why is *drama* important?

Studying drama helps pupils develop a huge range of transferable skills. Pupils will develop the ability to work under pressure and problem solve. It encourages creative thinking, team work and collaboration and it develops an individual's communication, confidence and resilience.

The study of drama raises aspirations and develops empathy, allowing pupils to put themselves in another's shoes, considering different opinions and experiences to their own. The study of drama will also prepare pupils for a wide range of career opportunities within the Performing Arts industry, such as an actor, dancer, set or costume designer, teacher or arts administrator.

Summary of the Department

Drama is part of the expressive arts faculty lead by Mrs Murphy

Eleanor Martin – teacher of Performing Arts, drama specialist

Teaching in a state-of-the-art drama studio

Key Stage 3

The overall curriculum intent for KS3 is to develop a love for the Performing Arts as a whole; to experience a wide variety of practical workshops and skills to develop confidence and creativity. Through the performing arts curriculum we want to promote a sense of self-worth and resilience and develop the transferable skills all employers seek.

Year 7 pupils will develop core skills through practical exploration of Performing Arts, learn a range of drama conventions to enable pupils to create their own work and learn how to analyse and understand and perform scenes from a script. Assessment is

Year 8 pupils will develop core skills through practical exploration of Performing Arts, learn a range of drama conventions to enable them to create their own work, develop their physical skills, create tension and suspense in a performance and learn how to develop their performing arts work through devising.

Year 9 pupils will develop skills learned in year 7 and 8 through practical exploration. Pupils will work collaboratively and independently to develop and deepen their character work through devising, they will analyse and perform scenes from a script and develop design skills, exploring set and costume design. There will be a strong focus on issue-based drama and preparing pupils for KS4.

Key Stage 4

AQA Technical Award in Performing Arts

Unit 1 – Unlocking Creativity

What's assessed? A presentation and written log book

This unit assesses the theoretical content of the learner's chosen discipline (performance or production). Learners will demonstrate core knowledge and understanding of: the following:

- Research
- Idea development
- Planning and budgeting
- Presentation (skills and content)
- Transferable skill of communication.

Unit 2 – The Production/Performance

What's assessed? A final performance

This unit provides the opportunity for learners to focus on the practical application of their chosen discipline. They will work individually and as a member of a group on:

- A key performance or production role in a performance based on one of five performance briefs
- Transferable skill of teamwork

Unit 3 – The Performing Arts Experience

What's assessed? A written exam

Core knowledge and understanding of the following:

- Roles and responsibilities within the performing arts industry
- The role of performing arts in society
- Approaches to rehearsal
- Working as a deviser/performer/director
- Marketing and public relations
- Health and safety
- Design and technical elements
- Reviewing performance
- Theatre/film in education.

Key Stage 5

Performing Arts is offered at the West Coast 6th Form and is delivered at The Whitehaven Academy.

Outside the classroom

Pupils will have the opportunity to take part in public performances and take part in a weekly drama club.