

Year 7 Drama

Curriculum



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Introduction

Our year 7 Drama Curriculum aims to:

- To develop students' confidence, creativity, and imagination through drama.
- To introduce students to a range of dramatic genres and styles.
- To help students develop their communication, teamwork, and performance skills.
- To foster students' appreciation for the role of drama in society and culture.

Curriculum Content:

1. Introduction to Poor Theatre/Grotowski:

- What is drama? Explore the definition of drama, its purpose, and its role in society.
- Discuss the different elements that make up a dramatic performance, such as plot, character, setting, theme, and language and how these can be utilised in the style of Poor Theatre.
- Use physical theatre creatively in group devised stories.
- Warm-up exercises: Practice a variety of physical and vocal warm-up exercises to prepare the body and voice for drama.
- Improvisation techniques: Learn and practice a range of improvisation techniques, such as hot seating, freeze frames, and storytelling.
- Character development: Explore different methods of creating and developing characters, including physical appearance, voice, and backstory.
- Basic stagecraft: Learn about the basics of stagecraft, including stage layout, set design.

2. Commedia Dell A'rte:

- Creating a lazzo.
- Exploring the 7 character types.
- Exploring mime and exaggeration
- Mask making



3. Shakespearean comedy:

- Comedy: Explore the elements of Shakespearean comedy, including humour, satire, and farce, dramatic irony.
- Create and perform comedic sketches and scenes from a comedy play.

4. Contemporary comedy and the plays of Alan Ayckbourn:

- Relatable Characters: Ayckbourn's plays often feature ordinary people in everyday situations. The characters are often flawed and funny, which can be engaging for this age group.
- Farcical Elements: Lots of mistaken identities, slamming doors, and quick-witted dialogue.
- Social Commentary: The plays touch on social issues like family dynamics, relationships, and the pressures of modern life to encourage critical thinking among students.
- Technical Challenges: Students to learn about stagecraft, timing, and ensemble work.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of Year 7, students will be able to:

- Use their bodies and voices expressively to create characters and tell stories.
- Work collaboratively with others to create and perform dramatic pieces.
- Respond to and create scripts, improvisations, and devised pieces.
- Analyse and evaluate their own and others' performances.
- Understand the basic elements of drama, such as plot, character, setting, and theme.

Assessment:

- Students will be assessed through a variety of methods, including:
- Performances
- Individual / Group work
- Observations



Resources

- Playscripts
- Improvisation games
- Costumes and props
- Digital resources (e.g. videos, websites)

Evaluation and Review

The curriculum will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness. Feedback from students, teachers, and parents will be considered in the review process.

Updated August 2024

Next review: August 2025