

DRAMA

Curriculum Vision Statement

"If you take a child to the theatre, not only will they practice empathy, they might also laugh uproariously, or come home singing about science, or want to know more about history, or tell you what happened at school today, or spend all dinner discussing music, or learn how to handle conflict..."

Lauren Gunderson, Playwright



Vision

The Northampton School for Girls' Drama curriculum explores a variety of genres and practitioners, all whilst learning the skills needed to be an outstanding performer/creator. We equip our students with a wide range of theatrical practices that will allow them to approach all types of performance, whether it be musicals, experimental theatre or traditional scripted plays, in an imaginative and innovative way. We give our students the cultural capital that they will need outside of the school environment, and expand their experiences through participation and interaction with the theatre, both live and in our workshops.

Drama at Northampton School for Girls (NSG) is a vehicle for important discussions around challenging topics such as bullying, conflict, prejudice, mental health, social media and much more. Drama is a subject that is well regarded by further education establishments and employers. It is seen as a subject that prepares students for careers in areas such as Law and Journalism. As well as being ideal for all careers in the field of drama, theatre and film. It can also be instrumental for students wanting to pursue careers in education and teaching.

Our aims

- To cover key issues that affect young people through a broad curriculum.
- To develop Presentation skills and confidence.
- To develop communication skills and teamwork.
- To develop and encourage creativity and imagination.
- To prepare for GCSEs.
- To develop cross-curricular skills such as verbal communication, and Literacy.
- To have fun by exploration using drama techniques in lessons.
- To 'escape' the everyday by using role-play and imagination.
- To support mental health and well-being in group work and through issue-based drama.

Implementation

We encourage our students to experiment and push their creativity to the maximum by equipping them with design, directing and devising skills, as well as acting. Students are guided to reflect and be evaluative about their own work and the work of others, which allows for growth and progress. We do this through discussion and written reflections. The NSG Drama curriculum enables learners to be confident, critical thinkers and creative, visionary performers with communication skills that can be applied across all their subjects and beyond the school environment.

Key Stage 3 Topics to be covered from September 2020

YEAR 7	Silent movies - mime, comedy, audience awareness, tableaux * Darkwood Manor - physical theatre, soundscape, rehearsed improvisation * It's not what you say but how you say it - Voice: pitch, tone, volume, pace * Prejudice - devising, directing, split stage
YEAR 8	Romeo & Juliet - Shakespearean language, stage combat * Genre - horror, experiential, abstract, pantomime, realism * Commedia dell Arte * Knife Crime - rehearsed improvisation, theatre of the oppressed
YEAR 9	* Practitioner skills - Stanislavski, Artaud, Brecht, Boal, Physical Theatre * Devising - design and directing skills * Exploring a text - learning lines, staging

* Indicates topics that are assessed

Key Stage 4 Topics to be covered from September 2020

YEAR 10	Key practitioner exploration - Brecht, Physical Theatre and Artaud Devising skills and application. (Unit 1) Documenting, evaluating, and analysing the creative process Live theatre analysis
YEAR 11	Text exploration for written exam - Find Me Text exploration and performance - Chosen text (Unit 2) Live theatre review revision



Assessment

Pupils at KS3 are assessed termly on both knowledge, understanding and their application of skills, through practical assessments. The data is then used to; inform lesson planning, address common misconceptions, track progress throughout the course of the year and to identify students of outstanding talent. Assessments are further used to provide bespoke feedback to inform the next steps of learning and for individual target setting based on the skills success criteria. Throughout KS4 and KS5, pupils are assessed during and after every topic to help consolidate learning whilst preparing them for their end of year examinations.

Independent Learning

Drama is an important part of our every-day entertainment. We encourage our students to watch and engage with a variety of theatrical forms, whether that is theatre, television, or film so as to observe exemplary practice and spark curiosity and imagination. Other independent learning tasks such as reading a wide range of playwrights are given to extend the level of challenge and to deepen thinking.

Home Learning tasks are set every 2 weeks for Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students. GCSE students are set weekly Home Learning activities. Home Learning aims to reinforce and build on the knowledge and understanding that has been learnt in lessons, giving students the time and opportunity to research further, topics and issues in greater depth.

In this section you can find a copy of every Knowledge Organiser for every topic for each year group.

These are useful for students to have a summary of the drama content that has been learnt throughout the course of the year.

Extra-curricular

In Drama we believe that the best way to learn is by doing, therefore we provide wider opportunities outside of the classroom to develop theatrical skills. Key Stage 3 students are encouraged to attend our lunchtime drama club, Spotlight. Every year the school either produces a musical or a play where students are given the opportunity to audition for a role within the production, or are encouraged to engage with wider theatrical skills such as lighting, sound, costume, set, and stage managing.