

GCSE Drama

Contact Person: Miss M Hitchings

Contact Email: MHitchings@nailseaschool.com

Course Outline:

Component 1 – Understanding Drama. Students study one set play from a choice of six. Must be explored practically. Analysis and evaluation of a piece of live theatre that they have seen. Open book written exam.

Component 2 – Devising Drama (practical). Students devise a piece of theatre which is then performed. They record the creative process and analyse and evaluate their work in a devising log.

Component 3 – Texts in Practice (practical). Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer). Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1.

Skills/attributes required:

The willingness to work as a member of a group is essential as is a willingness to explore ideas with an open mind. A curious nature and a desire to understand and explore new ideas, themes, issues, cultures and experiences is also an advantage.

Transferable skills developed:

Communication skills | How to explore, analyse and evaluate | Creativity in problem-solving | Perseverance and motivation | Organisation | The ability to work under pressure and to deadlines | Self-control and discipline | The ability to work collaboratively | The ability to listen and to accept other viewpoints | The ability to lead and to motivate.

Additional considerations:

Students will need to see a play as part of their written assignment, there may be some costs involved with this. Other enrichment opportunities such as theatre visits may also incur additional costs.

Examination Information

Exam Board: AQA

Exam Outline: Component 1 – 40% Exam - Understanding Drama. Exam: 1 hour 45 min. Sec A: multiple choice on set play. Sec B: four questions on a given extract from the set play. Sec C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production.

Component 2 – 40% NEA – Devising Drama. Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 3 – 20% Practical exam – Texts in Practice. Externally assessed by visiting examiner.

Transferable skills: Students learn to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. They gain the confidence to pursue their own ideas, reflect and refine their efforts. GCSE Drama provides transferable skills for both further study and the work place.

Where can it take me?

Next Steps: A Level Drama and Theatre Studies, BTEC Musical Theatre, BTEC Performing Arts, Boomsatsuma course, Professional Acting Diploma.

Future career opportunities that this subject may lead to: Careers in the performing arts industries, such as acting, directing, producing, stage management, lighting, costume design, community education, teaching. Drama is also favoured by some Law degrees.

What do Year 10 and 11 say about Drama?

“I would love to do something to do with Drama in my future so I picked that.”

“Lots of work, working with new people makes acting more exciting. Lots of teamwork, makes a good environment to learn in.”

“It’s a great release of stress, very fun and it’s a nice break from lots of writing.”

“Drama is really fun and you are very independent, creative and learn how to get on with people you don’t know.”