



What will Year 7 students learn and how many lessons will they have each week?

In one hour a week, students in Drama will learn about the communication of meaning which is fundamental to human interaction. Students will learn to understand how to 'read' non-verbal communication and apply it in making their own characters. The voice will be explored so that students understand how to communicate precise meaning to an audience when combined with physical skills. As audience members, students will learn to analyse performance to understand the intended meaning and to evaluate the success of a performance. Students will make use of both published script and their own ideas inspired by stimuli to create performances.

What will Year 7 students need to bring with them to lessons?

Students need to bring their imagination, creativity, and an open mind to their Drama lessons.

There is no mandatory equipment needed for a Drama lesson; however, the teacher will tell students if there is something that they need. They may occasionally be asked to bring in a prop, or an item of costume to support a characterisation. Students may be asked to learn lines from a script and will need to bring the script into School.

Will Year 7 students have homework in this subject? How much?

Students will have homework in Drama but this will not always be a written task. Some homework will be practical and they might need to rehearse something in front of a mirror or interview someone to gather ideas.

Over a half term, expect to complete a minimum of one hour and a half of homework.

How can I support my child at home with their learning in this subject?

In Year 7, our focus is on understanding how meaning is communicated in the way people stand, sit, move their hands, move their faces, and talk, and what that combination tells us about that person. Pausing a film or TV show on characters to discuss how they might be feeling or why they have reacted in that way is a great starting point to analysing character. This could also be done with a painting or a photograph.

When reading with your child, discuss how the story might look if it was adapted onto the stage. What might the characters be wearing? How might they read a particular line? What would the stage setting look like?

What opportunities are there for further study and careers in this subject?

Drama and Theatre have an enormous history and body of knowledge that can be studied in depth and with great academic rigour at A-Level, degree level and beyond. However, it is also a subject through which you learn a range of transferable and inter-personal skills vital for the world of work.

Studying Drama could lead you to become a public speaker, a playwright, a project manager, an events coordinator, a set / costume / lighting designer, a theatrical make-up artist, a workshop leader, a teacher, a voice artist. You could work in Human Resources, entertainment, drama therapy, casting and arts administration.

Do I have to perform in my Drama lessons?

Yes in every lesson. But remember you perform every day. You behave differently in front of your parents, your friends, your teachers. You will speak differently too. All of this is part of every day life playing out the different parts of your personality and character. Students will perform as part of the whole class, in small groups, maybe even by themselves. But they will rarely have an audience bigger than the teacher and their class. More often than not, it won't be a formal performance. It will be sharing learning with others like you would in any other subject, except our work usually is practical not written on paper from behind a desk.

Will I learn to become an actor?

If you want to become an actor, studying Drama and learning how to analyse, evaluate, and create your own work is vital. However, Drama is not all about becoming an actor; you will learn about theatre design, students will learn about the history of theatre, people who are different to themselves and how to empathise with them. They will learn a range of performance skills to become a more effective actor, and these skills will improve over time, but they will also learn about working with others, through negotiation and cooperation and how to creatively solve problems.

Will we get to watch live theatre?

In addition to watching other students perform live in lessons, students will get to see recorded performances by previous students, and clips from performances by professionals; this is one of the ways which we teach them how to analyse and evaluate live theatre.

At GCSE and A-Level Drama and Theatre, it is a compulsory part of the course that students see live theatre so we will arrange trips for them to experience live professional theatre as an audience member if they opt to take Drama beyond Year 8.