

## **Drama Course contents**

### **Year 7**

Pupils in Year 7 are introduced to basic drama techniques through an investigation of six main topics. In the first term they begin with improvisation devices before exploring the topic of 'Bullying' through an exploration of drama texts and some work on role play and forum theatre. In Term 2 we look at the origins of theatre through a scheme of work on 'The Oral Tradition'. Pupils work in groups to produce puppet shows based on Aesop's fables. In the Summer term pupils investigate characterisation and plot by creating plays based on the topic of 'Superstition' inspired by performing extracts from the popular plays; *The Witches*, *Macbeth* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

### **Year 8**

Pupils in Year 8 improve their drama techniques through an investigation of five topics. They begin the year with an exploration of Theatrical Genres before using role play and improvisation to explore physical theatre. In the first half of the Spring term pupils investigate characterisation and narrative by creating photo-stories on the computer. This involves the manipulation of images and text using a digital camera. In the second half we explore the Disappearances in Chile under General Pinochet using political theatre. During the Summer we look at the topic of Ageism using scenes from 'The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4'.

### **Year 9**

We cover five main topics in Year 9 starting with a performance unit based on scenes from Willy Russell's popular play 'Blood Brothers' followed by a unit on Performance Poetry exploring the use of language and visual imagery. In the second term we begin with a Shakespeare project combining 'Romeo and Juliet' with 'Crimewatch' which then leads on to using Improvisation to explore the topic of parent/child conflict. In the Summer term, following a series of workshops using masks made by Trestle Theatre Company, pupils learn how to make and use masks in performance with an emphasis on physical theatre.

### **Year 10**

Students work on many activities to enhance their technical understanding of the subject in Year 10. They are able to advance their dramatic skills and techniques through practical and written work, including a one act play in February. The units of work that are covered give students the opportunity to prepare for Year 11's examination including; Devised Work on a Story From Thailand; The Study of a Complete Text; Working with a variety of Scripts; Improvisation; Performance; and Portfolio work. In addition, students visit the theatre and take part in 'A Day of London Theatre' at The Victoria and Albert Museum before going to see 'The Woman In Black'.

### **Year 11 Spring**

The final year of the Drama G.C.S.E. course is devoted to the Drama examination. In the Autumn Term students take part in two, teacher assessed, workshops: Unit 1 - 'The Legend of Mommo Torro' and Unit 2 - 'Tea4chers' by John Godber. This work is supported by a portfolio of six assignments and together they make up 60% of the final examination mark. In the Summer term, students prepare for their externally moderated performance exam in May; this is the remaining 40% of the course.

### **Year 12**

The Autumn term forms the basis of the A Level Drama and Theatre Studies course. After a brief introduction we start Unit 1: Exploration of Drama and Theatre, where the students begin studying two texts, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* by Edward Albee and *Metamorphosis* by Steven Berkoff. Candidates are examined on their practical exploration of the plays and a set of

Exploration notes of up to 3000 words in length. They are required to perform a duologue from Virginia Woolf and a group scene from Metamorphosis before submitting their exploration notes and a 1000 word live theatre review by Christmas. The Spring term is largely taken up with the preparation and performance of the Unit 2 exam 'Text in Performance'. Students have eight weeks to produce a full length play under the direction of their teacher and are assessed on their final performance by an external examiner. They are also required to perform either a monologue or a duologue.

### **Year 13**

This Autumn term is largely been taken up with the preparation and performance of the Unit 4 exam 'Devising Drama'. Students are assessed on their ability to work together over a period of eight weeks using drama to create an original performance based on a set stimulus. To accompany the live performance, candidates are required to submit a portfolio of written work. These 'Structured Records' are an evaluation of the process of creating theatre, and along with the practical preparation, constitute 30% of the A2 grade.

The Spring term is taken up with the preparation and performance of the Unit 5 exam 'Text in Performance II'. Students have eight weeks working together to choose, edit, direct, design and perform a script and are assessed on their final performance by an external examiner. There is an emphasis on re-interpreting the original text to create new meanings for an audience and students have the opportunity to convey their intentions to the examiner on paper beforehand. This unit constitutes 40% of the A2 grade. The Summer term is entirely devoted to the final 2 ½ hour written paper on the History of Theatre.