

Theatre Studies

Examination board: OCR

Overview

Creativity is the crucial 21st Century skill that we will need to solve today's pressing problems.

Theatre Studies gives you the opportunity to hone this skill, whilst also learning to work with others, to collaborate, to compromise, to listen, and to lead.

A Level Theatre Studies involves a mixture of theoretical and practical work: you will deepen your knowledge and understanding of theatre through your work with texts and practitioners; you will analyse performances; and you will create a devised piece of theatre and be assessed as a performer or designer.

Set texts

- *Touching the Void* by David Greig
- *Frankenstein* by Nick Dear
- *Othello* by William Shakespeare
- *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* by Patrick Quentin/Stephen Sondheim.

Content

Practitioners in Practice (40%)

Section 1

- Pupils explore practically the work of theatre practitioners and use the skills gained to explore text and create devised theatre. They are required to practically explore two practitioners and an extract from a performance text (*Touching the Void*). They will then complete a research report.

Section 2

- Pupils create a devised performance influenced by their exploration of the work of others from Section 1.
- Pupils will complete a portfolio of evidence of the practical work they have created and developed during the devising process. This will include analysis and evaluation of their own work.

Section 3

- Pupils perform the final polished devised piece of drama for an audience. They will be required to create and develop ideas to communicate meaning, gaining an understanding of the skill set needed to work on a role for performance.

Exploring and Performing Texts (20%)

- The aim of this component is to use acting skills to communicate the meaning in a performance text to an audience.
- Pupils are required to study one performance text in its entirety and work collaboratively to perform part of the text. They may choose to specialise in either performance or design

Deconstructing Texts for Performance (20%)

- This component is assessed through a written exam but preparation must consist of practical study.
- Pupils will explore the creative possibilities of staging the chosen performance text (*Sweeney Todd*), exploring it practically through the role of the director. Pupils will deconstruct the text and explore how any of its scenes can be staged and performed for an audience.
- Pupils will interpret and explore practically a performance text considering how to create, develop and direct a performance for an audience.

Analysing Performance (20%)

- This component is assessed through a written exam but preparation must consist of practical study.
- Section A enables pupils to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how extracts from the chosen texts can be rehearsed and interpreted in performance, showing an awareness of characterisation, performance style, genre and context. (*Othello* & *Frankenstein*)
- Section B allows pupils to analyse and evaluate live theatre.