



Drama & Theatre Studies

1. Expectations for success are:

Study a set play and consider the way it should be realised in live performance. They may consider lighting, symbolic sets, costumes or movement, actors' emotions and gestures. They will be asked in the role of director how to develop certain scenes for the stage in an examination essay.

All students will visit the theatre at least four times and appreciate live theatre. This will mean being able to explain and describe the gestures, movements and emotional performances of actors, how set and costume help achieve an effect and the overall message of the play. Every student will take an AS examination where they assess a particular performance of their choice in an essay. Students are allowed to take some notes into the examination to ensure their description is detailed.

This will mean that students will undertake regular research where detailed notes are recorded and handed in to the teacher as well as exploratory essays where plays in performance are described and analysed. 5 hours of independent study and homework should be undertaken each week. There is a cost implication when visiting the theatre which is a crucial and compulsory part of the course. Please speak to the teacher if the cost becomes prohibitive.

Students will engage in a practical acting course exploring a range of styles, techniques, plays and everyday issues that affect us all. This course will culminate in a live scripted performance where all students will be part of an ensemble cast acting in a published theatrical script for a live performance, realising a particular style or genre of theatre.

2. The characteristics of an outstanding student in this subject are:

All students need to be dressed comfortably for practical sessions so will need to get changed from business wear. Appropriate clothing only so tracksuit bottoms, leggings or jogging trousers and plimsolls, jazz shoes or trainers and a comfortable t-shirt. The emphasis is on being able to move freely in practical sessions whilst still remaining appropriately covered and safe to work. The written notes/diary needed for each practical unit is approximately 1500 words and obviously time will be spent preparing students for this section through use of personal study time.

Students are encouraged to read at least four plays of their choosing throughout the year as part of the expected wider reading. These plays are to be separate to the prescribed reading for the course and can be from any genre or period. The reason this is recommended is to give the students a broader sense of what is available to them as performers and will help them to build a solid structure for Higher Education should they choose to pursue Theatre at a University or Drama School.

It is expected that all students will think creatively and will work in a thoughtful and mature fashion. Support and trust are two of the key elements in any theatre based course and we work hard in the department to ensure all opinions and ideas are respected, providing they are appropriately put across.