

Little Heath School Sixth Form

Year 12 Induction Evening for Parents 2016

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| Drama |

*The course is delivered by:*

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Welcome to the department

* We are running the A Level OCR Drama & Theatre Studies course. This means that students will undertake their exams at the end of the second year of study. We will complete one of the examined components in year 1.
* The A Level Drama and Theatre Studies is a demanding but thoroughly rewarding course. Students are required to develop practical, creative and communication skills to apply to a variety of different contexts.
* Students will develop the skills necessary to understand and evaluate the way in which playwrights, directors, designers and performers use the medium of Drama to create theatre.
* They will take part in workshops in which they explore their understanding of play texts through practical and written exercises. They will have to communicate ideas, feelings and meanings with an audience as either a performer, director or designer.
* At the end of the two years students will sit a theoretical exam that allows them to consider approaching a text from the perspective of a director.
* Finally, they will have to be able to analyse the social, cultural and historic context of a piece of theatre. There is scope to explore theatre from either a performer, director or designer's perspective. This course also enables students to develop theatre from devised and scripted pieces.
* Not only will they learn a great deal about making, performing, analysing and evaluating drama and theatre, they will also learn about themselves. The associated skills they develop throughout the course will prove invaluable to employers and universities, who are keen to appoint imaginative drama students with talents in communication, team-work, leadership, problem-solving and time management.

Key to success at A Level

* You must be enthusiastic, self-motivated and committed.
* Work as a team player; it is vital to get on with others. You cannot do it alone in Drama.
* Listen, offer ideas, persevere and support others… they’ll return the favour.
* Don’t get behind with the written work.
* Keep up to date with your portfolio for component 1 and make sure you log key rehearsals as you go.
* It is easy in a practical, performing subject like Drama to compare yourself to others and worry... DON’T! This will only make you panic.
* When we start the written element of the course – do practice essays, send over drafts, the more you practice, the easier it will get!
* Do YOUR best, that’s all we ask.
* Don’t miss rehearsals. You will have to make sacrifices and be flexible. Think carefully about taking on extra work commitments during intensive rehearsal periods.
* Go to the theatre and cinema as often as possible. The more you see, the more you’ll improve as an actor, director, designer and critic.
* Talk to us if there is anything at all that you are worried about. We are happy to help and will always be ready to liste

What parents can do to help

* Encourage your son or daughter to talk to you about what they are doing in Drama.
* Get them to explain why they are doing it.
* Encourage students read a wide range of plays. The library has a range of plays (as do the Drama department!)
* If possible, take them to the theatre as often as you can. We have lots of super facilities in our area; The Hexagon & South Street- Reading, South Hill Park - Bracknell, The Watermill - Newbury, Sonning Mill and many more. But you don’t have to pay lots of money to see professional theatre; Reading has many amateur theatre groups with who produce quality drama. You can also watch productions from the National streamed live to VUE cinema’s as part of the National Theatre live programme.
* Help them learn lines.
* Help them to manage their time.

Important deadlines

**Autumn Term:** Key rehearsals for Component 1 – at least one lunch or afterschool per week.

Portfolio first draft due in December

**Spring term:** Component 1 performance

**Summer term:** Prep for Component 3 & 4