

## GCSE Drama

### **Why take Drama?**

GCSE Drama is not just about acting. The course inevitably covers all sorts of transferable skills that will be useful throughout life: communication, presentation/public speaking, group and leadership skills, problem solving, time management, initiative and the ability to work to a deadline and get it right first time (there are no re-runs!). Drama is also a subject to take if you want a job in the entertainment industry, in front of an audience or behind the scenes. It is also relevant and interesting to people who are interested in culture or social issues.

### **The Course**

The GCSE Drama course is split into two sections, the written examination and the coursework.

The written examination focuses on four different types of skill: describing, explaining, analysing and evaluating. Pupils need to be able to show understanding of how characters, atmospheres and audience responses are created and how ideas are presented. The first section we study focusses on a piece of coursework they have completed and the second section focusses on a piece of live theatre they will have seen during their GCSE course.

The coursework is spread over the 2 years of the GCSE. Pupils complete 3 pieces, one devised (making the piece up on a theme, usually a Creative Adaptation) and one scripted (usually Blue Remembered Hills), where they will need to learn lines as well as practise the scenes. Depending on their grades for these two pieces, they will then complete a third piece to boost marks in one discipline.

Quotes from pupils:

“It has brought out my confidence a lot and it’s my favourite GCSE.”

“It gives you a chance to express yourself in a different form.”

“It’s a confidence building subject for me and will help me achieve my aspirations of joining the film industry.”

“Drama is a fun subject if you like learning in a different way and it’s also good for preparing for a job with contact with the public or public speaking.

“Drama gives you a sense of freedom.”

### **A Summary of the AQA Drama GCSE Course**

*\*42401 – The Written Examination\**

40% of the GCSE

1 ½ hours – 2 sections

Section A – 4 questions about the Blue Remembered Hills coursework piece.

Section C – 2 questions about one of the live pieces of theatre they have seen during the course.

***\*42402 - Coursework\****

60% of the GCSE

2 performances to an audience: one scripted, one devised