The Drama curriculum at our school is carefully structured to help students grow in creativity, confidence, and critical thinking. From Year 7 to Year 13, students build their knowledge and skills in a sequenced way, developing from foundational techniques to advanced performance and analysis. Below is an overview of what your child will learn and why it matters.

Years 7–9: Foundations in Drama

Year 7 – Introduction to Drama

Skills Focus: Basic acting techniques – voice, body language, posture, gesture, and improvisation.

Why it matters: Builds confidence, communication skills, and creative thinking. Students begin to understand how to perform and express ideas through drama.

Year 8 – Character, Collaboration & Culture

Skills Focus: Creating characters, understanding motivations, exploring ensemble work and cultural/historical context.

Why it matters: Encourages empathy, teamwork, and appreciation for theatre traditions and how drama reflects society.

Year 9 – Performance & Interpretation

Skills Focus: Scriptwriting, devising, textual analysis, dramatic conventions (e.g. direct address, hot seating).

Why it matters: Prepares students for GCSE/BTEC level by deepening creative expression and introducing structured evaluation and theatre analysis.

Years 10–11: Developing Craft & Vocational Insight

Year 10 – Professional Practice & Production

Skills Focus: Analysing professional theatre, learning about roles in the industry, understanding key theatre practitioners (e.g. Stanislavski, Brecht).

Why it matters: Introduces students to real-world theatre production, linking classroom work to the professional world.

Year 11 – Creative Response & Evaluation

Skills Focus: Responding to briefs, devising and performing as individuals or groups, reflecting on strengths and areas to improve.

Why it matters: Equips students with collaborative and evaluative skills, crucial for creative industries and future study or careers in performance.

Years 12–13: Advanced Study & Artistic Maturity

Year 12 – Techniques, Context & Careers

Acting & Performance Skills: Students deepen their use of techniques like Stanislavski and Brecht, applying these in live performance settings.

Contextual Understanding: Study of how social, historical, and political contexts influence theatre.

Industry Knowledge: Exploration of career roles in theatre, job pathways, and the skills needed to succeed.

Why it matters: Students become more informed, reflective, and skilled performers. They also begin to see drama as both an art and a potential profession.

Year 13 – Mastery & Critical Reflection

Creative Practice: Advanced acting and stagecraft (e.g. lighting, sound, costume), group collaboration, responding to stimuli to devise work.

Evaluation & Analysis: Rigorous critique of live/recorded theatre and their own performances.

Why it matters: Prepares students for further study at university or drama school. Encourages them to be thoughtful, adaptable, and articulate theatre-makers.

Key Learning Threads Across All Years

Performance Skills: Developing expressive voice, body, movement, and presence on stage.

Characterisation: Understanding and portraying complex characters.

Theatrical Knowledge: Exploring the history, styles, and key figures in theatre.

Collaboration: Working as a team in creative and high-pressure environments.

Critical Thinking: Evaluating performances (their own and others') using specialist vocabulary and structured analysis.

Creativity & Reflection: From improvisation to devising original work, students continually reflect and refine their artistic ideas.

Supporting Your Child

Parents play a crucial role in supporting drama education. You can:

Encourage your child to attend live theatre when possible.

Discuss performances they're working on or watching.

Help them reflect on feedback and think about character motivations or creative decisions.

Recognise drama’s value beyond performance—skills like confidence, teamwork, and critical analysis are useful in all careers.