

## **GCSE Drama**

### **Do you have to enjoy performing?**

*30% of the qualification is based on your individual performance skills, so it's not the 'be all and end all' but it certainly helps if you enjoy it. You will have to be confident enough to perform for your classmates most lessons, for assessment by your teacher and in a performance exam in Year 11.*

### **I enjoy Drama, but I worry about performing in front of my classmates at the moment.**

*You have to imagine what it'd be like once only the people that are really serious about Drama are in the lessons. At GCSE we have much smaller groups of people that have all chosen the subject so it has a really close, supportive atmosphere, which is very different to KS3.*

### **Am I confident enough to do it?**

*Only you can know if you will succeed in Drama as confidence comes from within. For many people who have just enough confidence, it does wonders for them. With each challenge comes that great feeling of pride in yourself when you have succeeded.*

### **I have heard there's loads of writing, is that true?**

*It is as practical as a GCSE can be but that still leaves 70% to be examined in the written exam and coursework. But it's important to note that most lessons are practical. All of the writing involves you describing acting or explaining how you create performances, so the best way to learn this is to have done the acting and creating first hand. As a general guide, we have a double practical lesson every week and a single theory lesson every other week. That makes GCSE Drama a great choice if you like being creative and active.*

### **Do we get to do any technical theatre like lighting or costume design?**

*Yes – it's not a big part of the course, but you do need to learn about costume, make-up, lighting, set and sound. One of the questions in the written exam requires you to design one of these elements for your set text, so we will practise using these elements of theatre in lessons regularly.*

### **Do we ever go on trips?**

*YES! In pre-covid times, we were taking GCSE Drama students on about 3 or 4 theatre trips during the course and we've started these back up as we're slowly allowed to. We also have at least one visiting theatre company come into school to run workshops with Drama students to give them professional 'real-world' experiences of acting masterclasses, devising techniques and comedy performance.*

### **What is Drama actually useful for?**

*Drama proves to employers and colleges that you have great people management skills. It develops your creativity and entrepreneurial skills. It is also a great pre-cursor to study in areas like psychology as we analyse character psychology in texts and performances. Any degree at University will require you to analyse your processes in the way we do in Drama and esteemed Universities like Ox-bridge look for well-rounded students who have a wealth of both academic, physical and creative experience in their background.*

### **Is there lots of homework?**

*Expect as much homework as in any other subject, although sometimes your homework will be doing a rehearsal after school with your group or learning lines.*