

Drama

(on her Drama education) *“We made a play every week in the battered old drama studio, so you got to do everything – lighting, sound, acting, writing, directing. It didn’t feel like work to me. I lived for those shows, and I never looked back.”*- **Emma Rice English actress, director and theatre professional.**

Drama is for children who perhaps won't do drama as a career but being in a drama classroom will change them in a powerful and positive way. It will help with their confidence, to deal with anxiety and help them to connect.”- **Jessica Hynes, Actor and Director**

“I only ever wanted to be a performer, an actor. I was involved with WUDS, the drama society, and later I set up my own one with a friend. Forward-wind to 10 years later when I was struggling to find acting work. I decided to set up my own theatre company, and the fact that I’d done it here gave me a sense of ‘we’ve sort of done this a little bit before.”- **Alecky Blythe Verbatim Theatre Playwright**

Drama is a vibrant and dynamic department at The Holt School that exists to instil in students a lifelong love of theatre and the arts while developing social and creative thinking skills.

Our facilities include: 1 black box studio space, use of a large hall with a proscenium arched stage and a classroom for examination revision. The studios and hall are equipped with state-of-the-art lighting, AV and sound facilities as well as having a large store of props, set, costumes, scripts and other resources for use in lessons and productions.

Outside of the classroom students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities including: the school musical, Drama Club, Drama Council, House Drama and KS3 Showcase.

What is studied at KS3

Key Stage 3

During KS3 students are exposed to an exciting and challenging skills based curriculum where they:

- Explore a range of acclaimed plays such as War Horse, Noughts and Crosses and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time to help students develop their knowledge of drama skills as well as developing their academic knowledge of plays and playwrights.
- Devise and perform scripted and improvised drama in response to a range of stimuli
- Respond and reflect upon work in a critical and thoughtful manner
- Develop confidence, communication and collaboration skills
- Learn performance skills, terminology and dramatic techniques to explore characters, contexts and situations

In addition to practical work students record progress through an assessment grid where they can reflect and evaluate their work. Students are encouraged to work on projects outside of the classroom to support their learning.

What is studied at KS4

Key Stage 4

GCSE Drama engages and encourages students to become confident performers and designers with the skills they need for a bright and successful future.

Students learn to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. They will gain the confidence to pursue their own ideas while reflecting and refining their work. Upon completion of the course students will emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace.

Component 1: Understanding Drama (40% of the GCSE)

This is a written exam sat at the end of Year 11 where students answer questions that: demonstrate general knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre; analyse a set play and evaluate a live performance.

Component 2: Devising Drama (40% of the GCSE)

In Component 2 students are assessed on the process of creating devised drama and the performance of devised drama where they may contribute as a performer or designer. This is assessed through an on-going devising log and their final performance.

Component 3: Texts in Practice (20% of the GCSE)

Students will perform two extracts from one play where they will contribute as performer or designer.