

## A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies Frequently asked questions.

### Is this course for you?

This two-year, linear course will be enjoyable and stimulating for those who are interested in gaining a wider knowledge and understanding of the theatre. It provides the opportunity to develop practical skills alongside a critical written response.

Theatre Studies has become a very popular choice for Sixth Form pupils as it combines the development of oral presentation skills, increasingly focused on by universities as an alternative to the traditional essay, with written analysis. GCSE Drama is a useful preparation for the course but we also welcome pupils without this foundation, who can demonstrate a sustained interest in and/or experience of theatre.

The course is full and varied. It does demand personal commitment and engagement from the pupil as it involves group work and individual study. Participation in extra-curricular drama activities is invaluable in the development of practical skills and is therefore actively encouraged by the department.

### How much of the course is practical?

The course is 60% practical and 40% written. Although each practical unit includes written coursework, you will have detailed guidance and 1 to 1 feedback throughout the process.

### What is the A-level Course Outline?

#### **Component 1: Drama and Theatre, (40% of A-level) 3 hour open book written examination**

Pupils will demonstrate their Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre through the study of two set plays and the work of live theatre makers.

#### **Component 2: Creating Original Drama, (30% of A-level) working notebook (40 marks) and final performance (20 marks)**

Pupils will devise and perform a piece of original drama performance of devised drama, influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner.

#### **Component 3: Making Theatre, (30% of A-level) performance of extract (40 marks) and reflective report (20 marks)**

Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts from different plays; methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3 which is to be performed as a final assessed piece.

### What enrichment and extra-curricular Activities are there?

The course requires that pupils see a number of live and digital productions over the two-year period. Workshops with professional actors and practitioners will also be offered to enrich the pupils' experience and understanding of performance, as will support with Drama School applications and interview preparation.

### Are there any costs or purchases involved?

The cost of theatre trips varies but approximately £70 needs to be budgeted. Three play texts will need to be purchased at approximately £8 each.

**What are the set texts studied for the written exam?**

The Glass Menagerie - Tennessee Williams  
A Servant to Two Masters - Carlo Goldoni (Lee Hall Adaptation)

**Which exam board will we study?**

AQA.

**Do I have to do Drama outside of school?**

No, this is not a requirement of the course. However, many of our pupils do take part in a drama club or theatre group outside of school; they find that it enriches the curriculum and builds confidence, allowing them to bring another dynamic to the class with different knowledge and experience.

**Is there a good combination of subjects to do alongside Drama?**

Over in Drama we love a variation of subjects - all of the different combinations of subjects bring a wealth of knowledge and ideas to the space. Choose the subjects you love and are interested in, and anything you choose will, I am sure, compliment the creative process in the drama studio.

**How many students are in each class?**

The class sizes can vary from around 17 to 7, and this tends to be a mixture of TWGGS students and also external candidates. The larger the class the more theatrical possibilities!

**What is the lowest number of students needed to run the course?**

Approximately 6, however the school is super supportive of the arts and will push to keep the course running even if there is less. We are yet to get below 7!

**What are the past results like?**

Really strong year on year, the 2018 -2019 cohort achieved 100% A\*-C and 83% A\*-B.

**Where will we study and perform?**

We are so lucky to have a purpose built Performing Arts Centre. This includes two excellent rehearsal rooms, and a larger studio and performance space, with full technical facilities and space for an audience of 140. We also have a costume, props and set cupboard, that is brimming with resources.

### **What happens after A-levels?**

Theatre Studies is a suitable preparation for a wide range of careers. Problem-solving, analytical and negotiation skills become highly developed and are demanded by a number of professions ranging from law, the media, teaching, public service, marketing and administration. It is, of course, an excellent preparation for a career in the theatre, entertainment and arts industries in a number of capacities – not just acting. Every year we have students gaining places at top universities including Oxford and Cambridge, proving that this course which is practically rigorous and academically challenging, is well regarded by the very top institutions.

### **How can I find more information?**

To find out more about this qualification, contact Miss Patman the head of drama at [drama@twggs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:drama@twggs.kent.sch.uk). Equally, take a look at the AQA website for more detail: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/a-level/drama-and-theatre-7262>