

Intent (Curriculum Planning)

As students arrive at Kingsmead with very little experience of Drama, the basic skills need to be introduced straight away and this has been taken into consideration, particularly within the Year 7 schemes of work. In Year 7 and Year 8 the students will explore mostly Naturalism and Physical Theatre, whilst developing important life skills such as working together, being creative, presenting ideas and building confidence within themselves. By using their imaginations students can put themselves in other people's shoes, become more empathetic and therefore understanding of themselves and others.

This year in Years 7 and 8, students start the Winter Term with a Scheme of Work called Building the Actor, in the Spring Term they develop their Physical Theatre skills with Chair Duets and Alice in Wonderland. In the Summer Term students will be exploring Musical Theatre, combining acting skills with movement skills.

In Year 9, Students begin the Winter Term devising using a range of stimulus, in the Spring Term they work on combining Naturalism and Physical Theatre to do a short, scripted version of comedy, The Last Resort before in the Summer Term doing their performance and a shortened unit on Theatre Practitioners, building on the skills from Years 7 and 8. The focus in KS3 is on the practical skills within Drama, that support the development of social and communication skills.

AQA GCSE Drama begins in Year 10 and sees them through to Year 11. Devising and Script work are the pillars upon all drama education is built, (which is reflected in the AQA GCSE Drama exam.) The course over the 2 years tries to give students the opportunity to experience being part of a Theatre Company. In Year 10, students do the same three components as the Year 11's, however in Year 10 this is very much Teacher lead, whereas in Year 11 the students must work far more independently. The Course is made up of Component 1: Understanding Theatre, which is a written exam and 40% of final grade. Component 2: Devising which is a written log and performance, also 40% of final grade. Component 3: Texts in Practice is two performances of script extracts from a play, 20% of final grade.

We also offer extra-curricular opportunities which supports the curriculum. Annually we put on our big school production involving students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. Performers, technicians and backstage crew experience what it is like to put on a live show. Previous years have seen Little Shop of Horrors, Grease and Bugsy Malone performed. We also are part of TYCA Arts Schools Festival showcasing devised work from our students alongside other schools at the Tacchi Morris Theatre, Taunton each Summer. Years 7 and 8 have a lunchtime club on Thursdays which will also work towards a performance.

Students are given opportunities to visit the theatre to experience different styles and genres, students who are PP are given help if there is a financial difficulty. We often visit the Tacchi Morris Arts Centre in Taunton with students both watching and performing there. GCSE Drama students go to Bristol or London to watch a performance. We will also be running an 'Arts Trip' where students from the three art forms take a trip to Bristol/London and look at an art gallery and then watch a musical, giving a wider Art's experience to the whole cohort.

Students are offered a variety of aspects of theatre. It is possible, through my own knowledge and through working on a devised piece that other Drama practitioners are presented to students to enable them to consider alternative theatre styles and ideas.