



# St Benedict's Catholic School

*The Catholic Secondary School for West Suffolk*

## DRAMA CURRICULUM GUIDE

### Year 8 Autumn

Year 8 Drama is designed to provide opportunities for students to continue to build upon the strong foundations put into place in Year 7. The year will begin with 'Melodrama', which focuses on mime and the power of gestures and facial expressions to convey thoughts, emotions and character. Students will explore the historical context of the genre as well as using music to create a narrative using pace, rhythm, accent and dynamics.

After half-term students will then progress to the use of 'Masks in Performance', which will build upon the exploration of mime in the previous unit. Students will develop body and stage awareness, experiment with ways to isolate different parts of the body, gain an understanding of how the body moves in certain situations and explore ways to convey thoughts, emotions and character without dialogue or facial expressions.

Formal assessment will take place at the end of the term including student self and peer assessment. Students are assessed in the following 4 areas: group work; voice and movement; techniques, form and structure; and evaluation.

### Year 8 Spring

In the spring term students will continue to develop their creativity and skill through the use of scripts focusing on Alan Ayckbourn's 'Ernie's Incredible Illucinations'. The aim of this unit is to build upon scripted work in Year 7 to ensure students understand the basic format of a script (dialogue and stage directions), explore the construction of characters within a script, discover how to block and perform a section of a script and develop improvisation work with a script stimulus.

Students will then move onto 'An Introduction to Shakespeare' scheme of work providing students with the opportunity to practically and actively explore several of the Bard's plays including Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet and The Tempest. Students will develop their understanding of Shakespearean language and play texts as well as the context in which the plays were written and their relevance in today's society.

Throughout the term students will self and peer assess their work with a formal teacher assessment taking place at the end of the term.

### Year 8 Summer

As Year 8 draws to a close, students will explore animal characteristics within human behavior and movement with 'The Zoo'. Students will explore this practically through improvisation, hot seating, role-play and mime. Cross-curricular links with Art will present themselves in this unit with students designing animal masks to use in their assessment task at the end of the half term. Students will also work in groups to

design a brand new zoo including enclosures and public amenities / facilities to then plan and deliver a presentation to the rest of the class. This scheme of work is designed to develop creativity and imagination alongside raising awareness of how Drama can be used outside of theatrical performances i.e. public speaking and presentations in the work place.

There will be an informal teacher assessment at the end of the first half term.

The final scheme of work for the year will be another scripted unit 'The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty' aimed to consolidate the learning and techniques introduced throughout the year. Students will focus on the use of vocal sound to convey emotion and character as well as the concepts of responsibility and consequence through the play's theme - bullying.

Students' will self and peer assess progress made throughout the year alongside a formal teacher assessment in preparation for the start of Year 9.