



St Benedict's Catholic School

The Catholic Secondary School for West Suffolk

Drama Curriculum Guide

Year 7

Autumn Taught Content

At the start of Year 7, students will be introduced to Drama initially through the use of drama improvisation and role play aimed to encourage participation, interaction and building confidence through play. The importance of co-operation and group work will then be introduced through the exploration of the theatre genre as well as key themes, characters and techniques of Greek theatre.

The main technique will be ensemble work but will also include techniques such as: freeze-frame, tableaux, mime, narration and characterisation.

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

After half-term students will then look at the style of physical theatre. Students will develop how to use physicality in drama in order to tell a story, looking at how to use their bodies to do this. They will also focus on creating atmosphere through the use of voice and body.

Drama Skills explored in the autumn term include:

- Still Image
- Thought out Loud
- Physical Theatre
- Narration.
- Hot-Seating.
- Role-Play.

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, and evaluation.

Spring Taught Content

In the Spring term students will continue to develop their creativity through the exploration of an influential playwright in history, Shakespeare. They will be challenged on breaking down language, storylines and characters. With strong cross curricular links to English, students will draw upon knowledge from prior learning in order to help them identify with characters and storylines. Developing drama skills such as:

- Style
- Genre

- Language
- Text breakdown
- Voice

The second half of the term students will focus on developing characters, students can use their prior knowledge to gain depth to characters reflecting on how we create a character and then applying this to performance. They will use the poem 'What has happened to Lulu?' as a stimulus for creating a story and characters. They will also develop the drama techniques:

- Voice work
- Body Language
- Gesture
- Characterisation

Students will be assessed on Responding: break down the poem and analyse themes, Developing: characterisation and plot line, evaluating: performance skills and contribution to work.

Summer Taught Content

As Year 7 draws to a close, students will learn about the style in theatre history, Commedia Dell'Arte. Prior learning to this will enable students to develop characters and explore new techniques in order to tell a story. Students will learn how to apply this style through characters and storyline of a historical event.

Finally students will then look at devising a piece of drama to conclude their year based on the stimulus 'The Red Tree' we will explore the themes and issues whilst focussing on the drama Skills:

- Imagination
- Teamwork
- Form and structure
- Drama elements

Students will collaborate their learning from the year and apply the skills needed to create this piece of drama.

Assessment

Students are formally assessed three times in the year; this will be based on responding, performing and evaluating.

Homework Expectations

Homework is set on Edulink, when needed to enhance students learning. Tasks such as, research, theatre style examples, lesson reflection, or a quiz.

Reading List

Greek theatre <https://youtu.be/aSRLK7SogvE>

Shakespeare <https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/explore-shakespeare/shakespedia/>

Commedia https://youtu.be/h_OTAXWt8hY

Extra and Super Curricular Opportunities

We aim to offer 2 trips to the theatre a year

We have a weekly Drama club at lunchtime

The opportunity to be involved in the annual school production.