



St Benedict's Catholic School

The Catholic Secondary School for West Suffolk

Drama Curriculum Guide

Year 8

Autumn

Year 8 begins to follow more closely the structure of the Drama GCSE course. To begin the year students will focus on the genre of melodrama, exploring the use of stock characters, comedy, and exaggeration. This leads on well from year 7 units to build on their confidence and develop characters different from previous units.

Drama skills focus:

- Character development
- Comical timing
- Exaggeration
- Drama elements

Once students have had the opportunity to build on characterisation, they will explore a play text *Sparkleshark* by Philip Ridley which focuses on a range of characters, through comical scenes. They will build upon bringing a script to life and focus on the performance elements, whilst also exploring the moral messages of bullying, inclusion, and friendships within the text.

Drama skills focus:

- Analysing text
- Understanding themes
- Acting skills
- Page to stage

Students will be assessed on 3 key areas, responding, performing, and evaluating.

Spring Taught Content

Building on from previous units' students will begin to develop their devising skills through the theme of Evacuees looking at WW2 through to modern displacement in the form of refugees. Using devising skills and techniques they have explored and developing them further.

Drama skills focus:

- Use of stimulus

- Use of soundscapes
- Still images and thought tracking
- Devising

Though the second half of the spring term students begin to embark upon the exploration of influential practitioners within drama, so we start by looking at Bertolt Brecht and his dramatic devices. Some of which the students have already explored but will now connect the two and explore this more deeply.

Drama skills focus:

- Direct address
- Episodic scenes
- Placards
- Narration

Summer Taught Content

As students move into the summer term we continue on the journey of exploring influential practitioners and varied styles of performance. Focussing on physical theatre and the work of Frantic assembly. This unit is an opportunity for students to develop their group work skills, to use prior learning on developing characters and exploring new techniques based on physical theatre companies which they will implement into their work.

Drama skills focus:

- Movement
- Physicality
- storytelling
- Form and structure

Working through theatre history students will end the year being introduced to a key practitioner Stanislavski and his style of naturalism. Exploring skills and techniques which they can develop and apply to practical work.

Drama Skills focus:

- Magic if
- Naturalism
- Characterisation

Assessment

Students will be assessed in line with the school's assessment points. In drama we look to assess students based on the skills studied in the units of work and particularly on three key areas: responding, developing, 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

Brecht: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwmvd2p/revision/1>

Stanislavski: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zxn4mp3/revision/1>

Frantic assembly: <https://www.franticassembly.co.uk/>

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.