Subject: A level Drama/Btec Performing arts

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| **Welcome** | A level theatre studies would like to welcome you to the course. It’s an enriching and challenging course that will build numerous performance specific and transferable skills. Group work is at the heart of the course and over the two years you will work with your fellow class colleagues to create, develop and perform a wide variety of work. As well as performing you will see a great deal of theatre and learn to evaluate and analyse drama, which are both critical skills for this course. We look forward to welcoming you in September and hope you enjoy the transition work. |
| **Course Summary / Expectations** | The course offers students the opportunity to explore drama as a practical art form in which ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through choices of form, style and convention. Students will be introduced to key practitioners, theoretical influences and influential playwrights whilst developing and building their core practical performance skills.  **Overview of the Programme**   * **60% will be assessed through non-exam assessment (performance and portfolio)** * **40% of AS and A-level Drama and Theatre will be assessed through a written exam**   **AQA A Level Drama and Theatre**  **Component 1- Drama and Theatre 40% (Completed in Year 13)**  Written Paper   * Section A- Drama through the ages (Antigone KHA) * Section B- 20th and 21st century drama (Our Country’s good DBE) * Section C- Live theatre production   **Component 2- Creating original drama 30% (Completed in Year 12)**   * Create and perform you own original piece of drama * Working notebook (written coursework KHA)   **Component 3- Making Theatre 30% (Completed in Year 13)**   * Interpret and explore 3 key extracts from chosen plays (Monologue, Duologue or Group) * Perform extract 3 to external examiner * Reflective report (Written coursework DBE)   . |
| **Tasks to Complete** | **Theatre Studies Transition Tasks**    **Task 1)** Watch the following clip from the production of ‘To be straight with you’ by the theatre company DV8 in 2011. DV8 are a physical theatre company who work in a verbatim style, taking real peoples words about topical issues. ‘To be straight with you’ was all about the LGBTQ community.  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AB-rFzq9Ro>  In Section C of your A Level Drama exam you will have to analyse and evaluate a piece of theatre you have been to see.  Complete the following exam question;  *Briefly explain the ways in which one or more performer(s) used their performance skills in order to convey their character(s) at particular moments. Analyse and evaluate the contribution of your chosen performer(s) to the total dramatic effectiveness of the production.*  Your answer should be roughly two sides of A4 and should include the following things;   * Analysis of VOCAL and PHYSICAL skills used in the piece to communicate meaning to an audience. * Evaluation of VOCAL and PHYSICAL skills used in the piece to communicate meaning to an audience.   **Task 2)** Please read the following play and research its original performance conditions:  <https://mthoyibi.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/antigone_2.pdf>  **Task 3)** Another of our play texts is ‘Our Countries good’ by Timberlake Wertenbaker. Please conduct research into the play paying particular attention to its historical context.  **Task 4)** Finally write, perform and record a monologue based on our current situation. This could be political, character driven, emotional, factual, or retrospective. It needs to be 2 minutes in length. |
| **Summer Reading** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Title** | **Author** | | Antigone | Sophocles | | Our Country’s good | Timberlake Wertenbaker | | AQA Drama and theatre A Level | Sue Fielder | | The Frantic Assembly book of devising theatre | Scott Graham | | The complete Brecht toolkit | Steven Unwin | | The Theatre of Steven Berkoff | Steven Berkoff | |
| **Useful Websites/ Resources** | www.edexcel.com/gcedrama  www.imagi-nation.com/moonstruck  http://hellenicbookservice.com/  www.nationaltheatre.org.uk  www.rsc.org.uk  www.stagework.org.uk |
| **Key Terms/ Glossary** | Acoustics  Antagonist  Archetype  Atmosphere  Blocking  Catalyst  Catharsis  Chorus  Climax  Commedia dell’arte  Conventions  Design concept  Dialectical theatre.  Diegetic sound  Ensemble  Epic theatre  Expressionism  Farce  Gestic acting  Gobos  Hubris  Improvise  Mood  Naturalism.  Political theatre  Promenade theatre  Proscenium arch  Protagonist  Realism.  Revolve.  Stasima.  Stichomythia  Stock character  Subtext  Symbolism  Total theatre.  Transition  Transposition  Venue  Workshops |

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