

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

WHY CHOOSE DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES?

Students can pursue their interests and develop their skills in a range of practical drama elements including acting, directing, costume, set, mask, puppet and technical design. However, the requirements of the specification, with its 70% written paper weighting, also enables students to gain an entry qualification for courses in Higher Education.

COURSE DETAILS

Component 1: Drama and theatre 40%

- Study of two set plays
- Live theatre evaluation

Component 2: Creating original drama (practical) 30%

- Devised drama
- Working notebook

Component 3: Making theatre (practical) 30%

- Practical exploration of three extracts
- Reflective report

Candidates will gain a knowledge and understanding of theatre practice through their own engagement with the medium as both participant and informed audience member. Candidates will develop performance and/or production skills appropriate to the creation and realisation of drama and theatre. They will also analyse the ways in which different performance and production elements are brought together to create theatre.

Candidates choose an option from the list below:

- Directing
- Acting
- Costume design
- Mask or puppet design
- Set design
- Technical elements – lighting or sound

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS OPTIONS

People who choose to study Drama at degree level tend to fall into two categories: those who already have a strong sense of vocation and wish to work in the professional theatre or television, and those who are less clear about their specific career goal but wish to pursue a degree course in an Arts subject in which they already



have an interest. There are various types of courses on offer within different kinds of institutions; the choice is complicated by the fact that many Drama schools (traditionally where the vocational courses are taught) now offer academic degree courses alongside their own diplomas, whilst some universities offer degree courses in Performing Arts, often with a significant practical content! If someone has a very clear sense of vocation and no desire to “keep their options open”, Drama School is the route most respected by the professional theatre. University graduates do go on to become actors, directors and so on, but in most cases they will also have done a postgraduate course at Drama School. The one exception to this is Oxbridge, which has supplied plenty of examples of people moving directly from university into the worlds of theatre, film and television.

RELATED CAREERS

Actor, artistic director, box office manager, costume designer, set designer, director, house manager, lighting designer, producer, production manager, stage manager, technical director, script writer, visual artist, tv presenter, researcher, arts manager, drama therapist, casting director, playwright, dramaturg.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

No previous knowledge of the subject is required although it would be an advantage if you had an interest in the theatre. Grade B or higher in GCSE English and/or Drama is advisable.

RELATED SUBJECTS

English Literature, Psychology, Sociology, History, Classics, Business Studies, EPR, Design Technology, Art, Photography, Music.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Westholme has a very strong drama tradition. There are two major productions each year, held in the Croston Theatre. The Christmas production includes pupils from Year 11 and the Sixth Form and the summer production includes pupils from Years 9 - 13.

We organise regular theatre visits, to major theatres in the north, for all Drama and Theatre Studies pupils. The region has a flourishing theatre scene and our students are encouraged to experience a broad range of theatrical forms for personal enrichment and to support their curriculum studies. There are educational trips to the Royal Exchange and the Lowry in Manchester, the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds, the Duke's Theatre in Lancaster and the Bolton Octagon.

