

Entry requirements / prior knowledge:

Seven 9-5 grades at GCSE, and 6 or above in Drama and English. Any student who did not take GCSE Drama, or achieved a 5 grade, will be required to undertake a short audition and conversation with the Head of Department on enrolment day.

Coombe Sixth Form Drama & Theatre Studies A Level



Rosie

"In no other lesson do you spend half an hour hanging upside down as Stephen Berkoff's bug-like creation Gregor.

In my opinion, there's no other lesson which pushes you so far both mentally and physically, or is as rewarding.

I plan to study Drama at university, as it's my passion and my dream to work in this world where you never stop learning."

Exam board / website: **AQA A Level
Drama and Theatre**

www.aqa.org.uk



Drama and Theatre

What does studying Drama and Theatre involve?

During the A level Drama and Theatre course you will learn to:

- respond creatively and analytically to challenging play texts and stimulus material
- work dynamically as a member of a group
- contribute to rehearsals, demonstrating commitment and vision
- understand practitioner theory and apply this in performance
- perform with truth and conviction to an audience, using sophisticated vocal, movement and communication skills
- understand the impact of form, structure and performance style on an audience
- evaluate your own live performance and those produced by a range of professional theatre companies
- understand the impact of social, cultural, historical and political context on the creation of Theatre
- use sophisticated Drama and Theatre vocabulary and develop high quality written communication skills
- apply your practical exploration and understanding to structured written work from the perspective of an actor, director and designer

What skills will I develop and where could studying this subject lead?

A level Drama and Theatre is highly respected by Higher Education institutions as it demands a challenging balance of creativity and academic rigour.

You will need to develop deep analytical skills both orally and in writing, and balance this with intensive practical work where you will apply your understanding and demonstrate your creativity. You will develop skills including teamwork, flexibility and resilience during the creation of performance work, and higher order analysis and evaluation skills in your response to live performance.

Students of A level Drama and Theatre emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, preparing them for Higher Education, further training or work in a range of disciplines. The course is an ideal springboard to further study in Drama and Theatre, and apprenticeships or work in the theatre and creative industries. Students will also be well prepared for any career pathway which demands effective communication and presentation skills, e.g. law; social work; journalism.

Modules that you will cover and assessment details

C1: UNDERSTANDING DRAMA (40%)

What is assessed?

- Knowledge and understanding of Drama and Theatre.
- Study of two set plays, explored practically.
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.

How is it assessed?

Written exam: 3 hours

C2: CREATING ORIGINAL DRAMA (30%)

What is assessed?

- The performance of devised Drama.
- The written Working Notebook about the process of creating the devised performance.

How is it assessed?

Internally assessed and externally moderated.

C3: MAKING THEATRE (30%)

What is assessed?

- The practical exploration and performance of 3 extracts, each taken from a different play.
- The practical exploration of at least one prescribed theatre practitioner,

which is applied to the play texts explored.

How is it assessed?

- Performance of extract 3: assessed by an external examiner.
- Written Reflective Report about the process of preparing all 3 extracts for performance: assessed by an external examiner.

Similarities between GCSE and A Level

You will build on the skills you have acquired at GCSE Drama in order to become an independent theatre maker. The qualification emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. You will work with challenging scripts and be expected to read widely in order that you have ideas to share. Seeing a range of live theatre regularly will also help you to succeed.

Which other subjects does it combine well with?

English Literature and Media require similar analytical skill, and other arts subjects will help to develop your creativity. However, your commitment to Drama and Theatre is more important than your other subject choices; students with a wide range of subject combinations have succeeded on this course.