

## Drama Department

### **Intent:**

The Drama Department's intention is to promote an ethos of mutual trust and respect, where students can express themselves in a comfortable, creative and supportive environment with flair and confidence but also to encourage tolerance and understanding.

Through drama, we seek to build a student's confidence and belief in themselves. By using role-play, improvisation, and characterisation they are able to question, reflect on the world around them and appreciate situations from more than one perspective. It also allows them to develop their skills in presentation, teamwork and writing. We encourage students to question, challenge and ultimately change their perception of the world in which they live. Our curriculum aims to be relevant, topical challenging, and inspirational.

While using Drama as a method for learning we also seek to improve students' knowledge and understanding of the Creative Arts. Through this exposure to a variety of different theatrical styles and forms, from across the history of theatre, we seek to provide students with more cultural currency to take out into the world and hope they too develop a passion for Drama and Theatre. The Drama curriculum should ask our students to be curious about the world while equipping them with the skills they will need to contribute to it.

### **Implementation:**

Our lessons have a practical focus where students are asked to think, imagine, explore and reflect upon the topics covered. This doesn't always have a focus on performance but often on experience, analysis and evaluation. Students are encouraged to develop their communication skills and work individually and in groups of varying sizes. As knowledge and understanding grows students are challenged with written critical analysis.

Our aim is that with a range of tasks and activities students will be engaged and enjoy their Drama lessons. We use a variety of production elements within lessons in order to achieve this. Students are encouraged to contribute their ideas for music, sound and lighting in order to enhance the learning experience. Our lessons also include regular use of video clips from the world of film, theatre and current affairs to ensure that our curriculum is interesting inspirational and relevant.

### **Beyond the classroom:**

While our keenest performers are encouraged to participate in the annual school show which is a joint production with the Music Department there is much more on offer to our Drama students.

Theatre visits are an important part of our curriculum and can drastically improve students' knowledge and understanding. We make regular use of regional theatres for our trips and see a variety of productions. Our aim is to provide each year group with at least one trip annually.

We also run lunchtime drama clubs at Key Stage 3 & 4 where students meet, eat and join the Drama activities.

In Terms of performances, each Year Group at Key Stage 4 take part in one evening performance each year to gain experience in performing for an audience and to provide our younger students with more to watch and learn from.