

## Expressive Arts – Drama

### What Levels of Courses Are Available?

#### National Drama

Assessment of National 5 Drama is 60% Practical and 40% Written. The course comprises of 2 internally assessed units. Drama Skills and Production Skills.

#### Drama Skills

In Drama Skills, pupils responding to a stimulus to devise an original piece of drama as a group. Pupils will devise in class time and arrange additional rehearsals as they work towards preparing their piece for an audience. This practical work is supported by a folio detailing the process.

#### Production Skills

In Production Skills, pupils explore a script in groups. They are assessed in their role as actors, playing characters from the texts, and as production designers for another group. Pupils will gain valuable hands-on experience of working as costume, make-up, set, props, sound and lighting designers. Groups will work on their scripted pieces in class time and arrange additional rehearsals as they prepare their pieces for an audience. This practical work is supported by a folio of their designs.

#### Practical Performance Exam 60%

Pupils are assessed by an external SQA examiner. They can choose to be assessed as an actor or a designer. Roles are cast and directed by the drama teacher.

#### Written Exam 40%

The written exam takes place within the main exam diet. The paper is in two parts. In the first part, pupils evaluate their own work and the work of others. In the second part, pupils will respond to a stimulus to create ideas for a drama. There is a strong emphasis on group work in this course, therefore attendance at all rehearsals both within and out with class time and a commitment to learning lines is key to achievement.

#### Higher Drama

Assessment of Higher Drama is 60% Practical and 40% Written.

#### Practical Performance Exam 60%

Pupils are assessed by an external SQA examiner. Pupils perform two scripted pieces from published texts.

#### Written Exam 40%

The written exam takes place within the main exam diet. It is comprised of two essays. The first essay requires pupils to answer a question on the text they have been studying throughout the year from the perspective of an actor or designer. In the second essay, pupils are required to analyse a professional performance that they have seen as a class. The rehearsal period for the performance exam is extensive, therefore attendance at all rehearsals both within and out with class time and a commitment to learning lines is key to achievement. To cope with the theoretical demands of the Higher courses it is essential to have passed or be working toward a pass in National 5 English. Acting pieces are cast in December and pupils have a Christmas homework task to begin researching their roles and learning their lines. An SQA examiner marks the piece in a performance exam in March. The prelim exam allows pupils to consider their progress in order to improve their performances before exam day.



### Career Pathways:

A Drama qualification would be invaluable in careers in the creative industries, for example acting; directing, costume design, set design, make-up artistry, sound and lighting engineering, stage management etc. Drama courses develop many of the key skills required for learning, life and work. Having good skills in communication, co-operation and confidence are major assets for any career. Drama also helps develop empathy and consequently the ability to understand other viewpoints and perspectives, beneficial for any career in working with people for example; primary teaching, early year's education, nursing etc.

### Theatre Trips

As part of the course, pupils will have the opportunity to visit the theatre and view professional performances.