

Drama at National 5

Aim of Course

To ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to generate and communicate thoughts and ideas when creating Drama. They will develop a range of acting and presentation skills as well as developing knowledge and understanding within a range of production skills (costume, set design, lighting, sound, props, make-up/hair). Pupils will also be expected to explore form, structure, genre and style within a variety of teaching strategies including improvisation and the use of texts.

Why study Drama?

The Drama course allows pupils to develop their creativity, organisation and confidence through a range of performance, production and presentation skills. The course is embedded with transferable skills which benefit pupils across all subject areas, such as Literacy (reading, analysing, characterisation), Numeracy (set design, sound and lighting, timing) and Health & Wellbeing (confidence, resilience, social skills). This course allows pupils to develop the skills and knowledge required to proceed to further study and/or follow a career in Drama.

Drama N5

This course consists of two externally assessed components, **Performance** and **Question Paper**:

Performance (60 marks scaled to 60% of final N5 grade)

All candidates are assessed on their preparation for performance which includes research into chosen text, thoughts and ideas for proposed performance, and the development of these thoughts and ideas.

Pupils demonstrate skills in:

- responding to stimulus (a full-length published script)
- developing character **or** creatively using production skills
- using and applying a range of acting **or** production skills
- communicating to an audience

In an **acting** role, pupils must perform to an audience. Performances will be in groups of no less than 2 and no more than 10 performers. This may be entirely actors, or a mixture of acting candidates and production skills candidates.

In a **production** role, pupils are assessed in the practical realisation of one of the following:

- designs for set (including detailed floor plans and elevations)
- designs for costume (sourced costumes, and one made/adapted costume)
- designs for make-up/hair (demonstrating an application for make-up/hair)
- designs and lists for props (including one made prop)
- designs and plans for lighting (demonstrating lighting operation)
- designs and plans for sound (including digital formats for music/effects for the play, and demonstrating sound operation)

Question Paper (60 marks scaled to 40% of final N5 grade)

All candidates are assessed on their application of knowledge and skills from across the course. It allows candidates to demonstrate their ability to interpret questions and respond in an informed way.

The question paper assesses candidates' ability to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- responding to stimuli
- characterisation techniques
- character relationships and status
- performance concepts
- design concepts
- form, structure and conventions
- presenting — application of concepts
- audience reaction
- analysis and evaluation skills of self and others
- genre and themes
- mood and atmosphere
- rehearsal techniques
- target audience
- a range of production roles
- different staging, settings and styles of production
- problem-solving and critical-thinking skills

Assessment

- National 5 is assessed externally and graded A-D, based on the performance grade (SQA examiner in February/March/April) and Written Paper (May).

**Further advice and information is available
from Ms Miller and Mrs Shaw**