

**RICKMANSWORTH SCHOOL**

**Drama Department**

Like theatre, Drama in schools can unlock the use of imagination, intellect, empathy and courage. Through it, ideas, responses and feelings can be expressed and communicated. It carries the potential to challenge, to question and to bring about change.

The Drama Department is a vibrant and exciting learning environment in which our students thrive and is very popular with our students. Uptake at GCSE is high, likewise uptake at A Level is consistently high. Results for 2017 are as follows:

**GCSE results 2017**

A\*-A 39.6%

A\*-b 77.5%

A\*-C 94.8%.5%.
A\*-C 94.8%

**A Level results 2017**

A\*-A 32.5%

A\*-B 50%

A\*-C 75%

A good proportion of our students go on to choose a Drama or combined Performing Arts courses at university.

At KS3, the primary emphasis is to allow students to explore the medium of Drama and Drama methods that also support their learning of Dance. Our aim is the integration of the individual within the group context. Through growing confidence, pupils are able to pool their own ideas, research, explore and use skills to develop responsibility, decision-making and judgement. Students also begin to analyse their own work and relate it to experience. They become increasingly aware of 'form' and 'content' and are able to comment on practical outcomes in terms of the impact of their own and others’ work.

The Eduqas Drama specification is followed as a GCSE option. The course promotes students’ involvement in and enjoyment of Drama as performers, devisers, directors and designers. It provides opportunities for students to see live theatre and to develop their skills as informed and thoughtful audience members. Through the study of this specification, students are given opportunities to participate in and interpret their own and others’ Drama. They will investigate the forms, styles and contexts of drama and will learn to work collaboratively to develop ideas, to express feelings, to experiment with technical elements and to reflect on their own and others’ performances.

At A Level, students study the Linear Pearson Edexcel Drama and Theatre specification. The course is designed for students to devise a performance based on a ten minute extract from a published play text and to explore plays from the point of view of a director, designer, performer and critic. The course demands practical, creative and written communication skills in almost equal measure. Students extend their ability to create Drama and Theatre, either in a performing or production role. They write about Drama and develop their powers of analysis to become an informed critic and to consider the possibilities for staging a play from the point of view of a director. The course involves taking part in productions, as well as studying plays and playwrights.

The Department will be very well resourced at the start of September 2018, with a brand new Studio Theatre space currently being built that will provide two fully functioning Drama Studios. We also have raked seating and a more sophisticated lighting rig in the main school hall for larger-scale productions. Beneath the new Studio Theatre is a costume and props store which is drawn upon for practical examinations and extra-curricular activities. Drama is highly valued by the School and the wider community.

The curriculum is enriched throughout all age groups with extra-curricular activities adding additional experiences to those students gain in class. These come in the form of lunchtime clubs as well as involvement in whole school productions, School House Competitions and opportunities to become Leaders of Learning. Our Stage Crew is made up of our young people who take on the responsibility of supporting many of our performance productions. Theatre trips are offered across all year groups with compulsory trips connected to examination work at KS4 and 5. These include visits to local repertory theatres as well as the West End.

It is a privilege to be the Head of Drama at Rickmansworth School. We are committed to continuing professional development which supports our practical approach to teaching and learning. The Drama department has a real energy about it with incredibly positive and conscientious staff. We are committed to continuing professional development and in our approach to teaching and learning. This role would provide an excellent opportunity for an energetic, ambitious and experienced teacher who wishes to progress with their career.