



Drama Department

Subject Information

Philosophy of the Drama Department

The nature of the subject is in total alignment with the aims of the School, in celebrating and developing the traits of the individual, so that they achieve in every facet of their educational experience. Our aim is for each student to make an outstanding contribution in all aspects of their life. We will do everything we can to make that happen.

Consequently, we feel that theatre and drama are at the hub of the school's work of making life-long learning accessible and appealing to all. As a key element of the public face of the school, through our many performances, both public and examination, we recognise the responsibility and possibility that such a flagship department brings and, therefore, exploit all opportunities for growth and for opportunities for students to truly flourish and showcase their talents and abilities.

Many students arrive at Bedes on Drama Scholarships after competing for places at audition. Our Drama Scholars are role models in the department are fully expected to take an active part in productions both on stage and off.

Structure of the Department

The Drama Department is situated in a purpose-built building. However, we are never content to remain still, with the result that we are continually looking for new ways to use our space, and we have rented professional venues in Eastbourne to capture a wider audience – thus far producing two sell out musicals. All of the drama staff teach in the same arena, which allows for exciting team teaching and shared practice – which is invaluable in this organic, fast-moving department.

We currently have 4 members of staff that includes the Director of Drama, Head of Theatre Productions with responsibility for Set design and build, a full time teacher of Drama and a part time LAMDA teacher.

Curriculum and Examinations

In Year 9, students can choose Drama as an option subject and the subject attracts those students that are keen to participate and learn more about the craft. This allows for projects that really stretch and challenge students to formulate ideas and opinions, to evaluate and reflect on their work and perform with skill and integrity. The Year 9 course is designed to be explorative and challenging for pupils of all abilities. We continually aim to keep the work that we share with our students fresh for them and for us and, to this end, we are constantly adapting and re-focussing our lessons and our schemes of work. Our purpose is to remain vital and innovative at all times.

Eduqas GCSE Drama is a popular subject. All students are expected to take part in every exploration and project, as a designer or performer. Design and performance skills are introduced in the first term and lead to assessments in a group devised piece, alongside a written recording of their experiences and final written evaluation. In the second year dramatists perform or design for two extracts from a given play, and are marked by an external examiner. Throughout the course, we enjoy a deeper level of textual study of a key text that forms part of the written exam, alongside live theatre review.

At A-Level we offer EDEXCEL Drama & Theatre Studies. The departmental philosophy of encouraging all of our students to approach drama in a deeper and more critical way is vital to all participants. Students work on existing texts as well as creating their own original devised work as performers or designers. The study of theatre practitioners is at the heart of much of the work and we offer external workshops alongside in house teaching to enrich the engagement with practitioners style, as well as travelling to see a broad range of live performance that significantly impacts upon the work of our students. We can say with some pride that the dramatic material produced is of an extraordinary high quality.

LAMDA examinations are a recent addition to the department and already we have a full uptake across a broad range of students within each year group. We offer Acting, Verse and Prose and Musical theatre in both solo and duologue performances. LAMDA lessons are a great addition to students in class work and also serve to enable non curriculum drama students to get involved.

There are exciting opportunities to become very involved with touring theatre productions such as we have recently done at the Fringe, Edinburgh. This work is an invaluable experience for our students and certainly has put us on the map.

There are a number of students who have gone on to study Acting, Directing and Stage Management at top Drama Schools after completing their A-Levels; this is done with the full support and guidance of the department and it is something we fully encourage and nurture and something that we have come to expect.