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| **The Drama Department**Despite our specialist status for Performing Arts having been withdrawn amidst government changes several years ago, the Performing Arts subjects remain at the heart of school life. It would be true to say that The Friary School would not be the Friary School without the energy, commitment and quality of the Drama Department. |  | Image result for the friary school |

The Drama Department has two specialist drama studios and a first-class theatre that is very much at the hub of the school. The theatre is a superb venue for the exemplar school shows and we are also looking to extend the facility so that it becomes a central pillar of performance with our vibrant local community.

Drama is taught across Key Stage Three and is a popular subject for Year 9 students choosing their Key Stage Four Options. The subject dovetails beautifully with the Music Department and showcases and performances are often joint ventures which mobilise literally hundreds of participants. In addition, we offer an externally provided ‘Superstar Academy’ which attracts KS3 students to evening sessions and community events.

The Key Stage Four course is the BTEC in Performing Arts and results have been consistently strong. The Summer 2016 results saw 95% achieve Level 2 Pass and above, with 45% achieving Distinction-Distinction\* grades.

Naturally, the Drama Department work within our Sixth Form too and we currently teach the CTEC Performing Arts course and are on track to achieve superb results this summer. In Summer 2016 students completed the A-Level in Performing Arts and the 100% pass rate also saw 50% of student achieve an A\*-B grade. Additionally, we have a thriving LAMDA course which attracts great interest and feeds into the school shows.

Indeed, the school shows are MAJOR events and win widespread acclaim across the community. This year has seen ‘Billy Elliot’ as the whole school show and the KLS3 Production was ‘School of Rock’. In addition, Sixth Form studies performing Shakespeare’s ‘Titus Andronicus’.

Essentially, this is a superb department which has long-established great engagement and enthusiasm across the school for its work.