**GCSE DRAMA**

**WJEC Drama : Change of Syllabus**

The new WJEC specifications (see below) come into play from September 2016 onwards. The syllabus focuses on the student as an actor and director, with a sensible coursework load of only 1500 words aimed more practically at what students working in groups have created and produced for an audience; and, in their final year, following the performance of two extracts from a published play, a short written exam which can be easily revised for.

**It is advisable that students who choose Drama as an option actually enjoy performing in public and enjoy expressive exploration of the craft of acting.**

**THE VALUE OF DRAMA**

From Professor Guthrie, Department of Neurobiology, KINGS COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON:

 'Having achieved good grades in at least 2 or 3 science A levels is a pre-requisite for entrance to university to read biomedical sciences or medicine. However, demonstrating excellence in Drama would also count towards university entrance.  In recent years, the medical curriculum in particular has been modified to place increasing weight and value on the ability of students to interact with patients, show self-confidence and excellent interpersonal skills.  Coping with difficult situations, being able to think creatively and spontaneously, and being able to relate to a wide range of people and scenarios are vital aspects of training to be a doctor, and indeed what are now seen as the 'transferable skills' of many degree programmes. There is no question that Drama enhances abilities and trains students in these important areas.'

**WJEC GCSE Drama**

Specifications

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

**UNIT ONE**: Devised Practical Performance and Coursework **(Total: 60%)**

Controlled Assessment

120 marks (120 UMS)

**Task One** – **40% Devised Performance (AO1, AO2)**

Candidates will devise a practical performance based on a theme, linked with a practitioner or genre.

At TSS, candidates are entered for examination as actors rather than as theatre designers.

Teachers record the work on DVD/Video.

Internally assessed and externally moderated with task two.

**Task Two – 20% Devised Performance Report (AO3)**

Candidates will complete a written report of 1500 words/4-5 hours on the practical work they completed in Task One, under formal supervision.

The report should include details of live performances candidates have seen, that have

influenced their practical work; details on decision making; the inclusion of technical elements and the content of the piece and an evaluation of their own work and that of the group.

Internally assessed and externally moderated with **Task One**.

**UNIT TWO: Performance from a Text (20%)**

External Assessment

50 marks (40 UMS )

Candidates will be assessed on their acting skills, performing two scenes from a published play.

Candidates to work in groups of between 2 to 5 members.

Externally assessed by a visiting examiner in late April/early May.

**UNIT THREE: Written Examination (20%)**

**Written Paper: 1½ hours**

**50 marks (40 UMS)**

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to analyse *one* set text as an actor, designer and director; and to evaluate their performance work completed in **Unit 2.**