**DRAMA DEPARTMENT**

In Drama we value the unique opportunities which our subject offers for experimental learning as part of a creative process. Through preparation and performance, students of all abilities are able to achieve.

We recognise the value of extra-curricular activity in drama and encourage all kinds of rehearsal and performance work in after school hours.

Our guiding principle is to develop the creative energies of students in performance in ways which engender tolerance and awareness within a multicultural context. We aim to instil in all students a passion for drama, and to teach the skills inherent in the creative processes which leads to an expression of ideas, thoughts and feelings.

While recognising that Drama is a subject in its own right, it offers a unique role within the whole school.

The Drama department at TPS is thriving with several GCSE groups in Years 9-11. Exam results are very high and well above national averages. All students in Key Stage 3 have one contact session per week, which is taught in mixed ability groups by a specialist drama practitioner.

Numerous Theatre in Education groups are used throughout the year to enhance the curriculum. Additionally, professional theatre productions are brought into the Studio@TPS to further enhance the curriculum work.

Our successful and professional productions are embedded in the life of the school and attract a wide range of talented students. Previous productions include “Evita” and “Cats” at the Kings Theatre Southsea, and “Oliver!” at the New Theatre Royal Portsmouth. We have also taken part in Rock Challenge for the last 13 years.

The Drama department is frequently involved with a variety of projects within the community, working with several primary schools and other community based groups. Additionally, numerous community groups use our facilities for performance.

The Drama department is housed in a £1 million Studio Theatre. The STUDIO @ TPS comprises a performance area with a capacity of 160, which is used for teaching by day and as a performance venue in the evening. This provides vital enrichment as a working venue.

**March 2018**