



Mayfield School

Information about the Drama Department

The Drama Department at Mayfield is a strong, vibrant and creative environment.

Drama is a compulsory part of the curriculum for all girls in years 7-9, who have an hour's lesson per week. The Department has developed a dynamic programme of study, which provides a developmental framework designed to ensure that girls progress continually throughout these crucial formative years, into competent and creative dramatists. Those choosing Drama as an option in Year 10 begin the GCSE course – with two hours' teaching time per week - which involves a significant practical component. Drama, like all A Level options, has 5 hours of teaching time allocated per week, usually shared between two teachers.

The Department seeks to take each year group to see plays they have studied in class during the course of each academic year. Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form go to see a variety of performances (approximately three per term) to enhance their experience of all types of Drama. We also organise workshops and in-School performances to provide further exploration of themes and schemes of work. Visiting speakers and playwrights also visit the School.

Mayfield has a strong tradition of performance, reflecting the educational philosophy of our founder, Cornelia Connelly; nurturing both the amateur actor and the aspiring professional. Rosie Cavaliero, Caroline Goodall, Dolly Wells, Louise Orwin and Fenella Woolgar are all Mayfield girls. All girls – and staff – are encouraged to be creative in their approach to every subject and Drama, obviously, is expected to take a leading role in this respect.

This is an exciting time in the Drama Department. As our boarding numbers increase, we are looking to expand our drama provision throughout the School, seeking to extend the opportunities available for all girls to be involved in a wide variety of productions. We are also intending to focus more on cross-curricular initiatives, and work more closely with other departments to encourage a variety of productions.

Currently, there are two major productions each year, coupled with performances of exam work and Gifted and Talented compositions. Recent productions include 'Animal Farm', a promenade performance of 'Shakespeare's Women', The Tempest, an outside performance of 'Animal Farm', 'The Fantastic Mr Fox' and we are currently preparing for Polly Teale's 'Brontë'. In addition, girls have performed in original pieces, devised and scripted by the Head of Drama. There is always scope to extend and review the nature and frequency of School productions.

The Drama Department is based in the same building as the Art and Ceramics Departments, and adjacent to the Music School. Teaching predominantly takes place in the Drama Studio, or the Dance Studio. The main performance space is the Giles Gilbert Scott designed Concert Hall. This space has recently been refurbished and upgraded for School productions. The School is developing ambitious plans to improve further the Drama provision and facilities and all members of the Drama Department are expected to be involved in strategic planning for the future.