



Drama at Woking High School

The Woking High School Drama Department is a vibrant and energetic department, which develops a creative and disciplined approach to the study of Drama and Theatre through a combination of practical and written activities. Study of Drama, and indeed the Arts, not only enriches knowledge and understanding of a variety of playwrights and theatre practitioners, but also develops the emotional intelligence of the students, producing well-rounded individuals. Students gain knowledge and understanding of Drama as an Art form, yet also develop skills in leadership, communication, time management, organisation, creativity and self-discipline – all of which will assist students in a variety of career paths. Consequently, Drama is delivered to all students in Year 7 and 8, and as an Option in Year 9 and at Key Stage 4.

Staffing and structure

The Subject Leader has the overview of all initiatives and practices. Whilst the majority of the Drama curriculum is delivered by the Subject Leader, a selection of KS3 lessons are to be delivered by an additional subject specialist.

Accommodation

Drama is taught in a purpose built suite of specialist rooms. M2 is a rehearsal room where most Drama classes are taught. This room is fully equipped with a projector and sound system. The Drama Studio is a small self-contained theatre with lighting and sound technology available, as well as a projector and sound system. Students are able to access lighting and sound technology both within GCSE classes and as part of TAG, who support all performances at Woking High School.

Curriculum

The KS3 curriculum has been designed to effectively prepare students for GCSE study but at the same time inspire a passion for Drama and Theatre. At Key Stage 3, students explore the foundation skills of Drama and Theatre which will prepare them for study at a higher level. Pupils learn about: Theatre History, Performance Styles, Performance Skills, Devising Techniques and Performance Analysis. Exploration and Assessment is conducted through Making, Performing, Understanding and Evaluating Drama. In Year 7, students have one Drama lesson per cycle. In Year 8, students have two Drama lessons per cycle. In Year 9, students who have selected to follow a Drama pathway will also have two lessons per cycle.

At Key Stage 4, the Drama Department deliver the AQA GCSE Drama Specification. The course focuses upon three components: Understanding Drama (Written Examination), Devising Drama (NEA), and Texts in Practice (Practical Examination). Students have five Drama lessons per cycle in Year 10 and 11.

Enrichment activities

A wide programme of enrichment activities and off-site visits complement the Drama curriculum. We look for opportunities for students across the school to have a live performance experience each year, whether it be through workshops or visits to see professional theatre. Departmental staff are invited to support such events. We have an active Day 11 programme including practical workshops, off-site visits and GCSE Curriculum Days. We are also very proud of our extra-curricular provision. A Lower School Drama Club, Digital Theatre Club and Technical Assistance Club (TAG) are offered to enrich the learning experiences of our Drama community. Furthermore, the Drama Department lead an annual performance event. In previous years, the Department has created PIE Productions (our very own production company). PIE Productions have delivered some excellent performances over recent years, including 'The Sound of Music' and 'Grease: School Edition'. This year, an alternative event is being developed; the Creative Arts and Technology Gala is a celebration of imagination, in which creative departments are celebrating outstanding work by the students. The Drama Department are collaborating with the Music Department to prepare a Musical Theatre Showcase, involving over 80 students. It is expected that departmental staff support activities of this nature, as it is such an amazing opportunity to collaborate with students in an alternative learning environment.