



QES

An 11-18 academy in Kirkby Lonsdale,
between the Lakes & the Dales



QESstudio

Technical learning with
local professional partners

Department Details

Theatre Arts

The Theatre Arts Department is a vibrant and collaborative team of three with a dedicated and highly supportive technician.

The Head of Drama will specifically manage the A level and GCSE courses and also jointly oversee KS3 alongside another TLR post holder who oversees all aspects of the BTEC Performing Arts courses.

The department teaches Eduqas A level Drama (and Theatre) and Eduqas GCSE Drama, and Level 2 and 3 Pearson BTEC Nationals in Performing Arts.

Our objectives are to provide learners with the knowledge and skillset to be confident and capable performers who can make intelligent and considered artistic choices in both the creation and understanding of drama and theatre.

Alongside this we strive to build learners' self-confidence as performers and individuals and work to foster in them resilience, curiosity and a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

We feel that it is important to push learners out of their comfort zone and to encourage them to problem-solve and find strategies to overcome creative blocks is theatre-making and perceived obstacles to their learning.

We adopt a "try by doing" approach and seek to instill in students an awareness of the importance of detail and sophistication in their work.

At GCSE learners explore devising and scripted work across a range of styles and practitioners including Epic Theatre, Naturalism, Physical Theatre and Stylised Naturalism in addition to studying a set text (currently *The IT*).

At A level students explore reinterpreting texts, devising and scripted performance across a range of practitioners and companies, in addition. We emphasise contemporary theatre practitioners and styles and always encourage students to broaden their thinking and understanding to see their work within a much wider context of influences; Katie Mitchell, Brecht, Stanislavski, Meyerhold, Berkoff, Thomas Ostermeier; Splendid theatre, Kneehigh, Frantic Assembly, DV8, Theatre Re. Our current set texts are *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Machinal* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, with these texts due to change for the incoming year 12 cohort.

At KS3 students have a broad diet of performance skills and practical activities encompassing Drama, Theatre and Dance through a series of progressive units that revisit materials covered and encourage students to apply their growing knowledge and skills in progressively more challenging tasks across years 7 to 9.

The department produces a yearly whole-school musical (recently *Matilda*, *Sister Act*) as well as productions for older students (Past productions have included: *The Sweet Science of Bruising*; *Anna Karenina*; *Woyzeck*; *Billy Liar*; *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*; *Agamemnon*).

We have a strong following of dedicated students who enjoy extra-curricular productions. We run regular lunchtime Dance and Drama clubs and there is a vibrant after school youth theatre. It truly is a busy and brilliant department to be a part of.