



Curriculum Overview – DRAMA

Drama at Pate's is unique for its unwavering commitment to Drama outside of the classroom. Aside from the learning that takes place within lessons, students from all year groups continue to develop their bold and independent approach to Drama through a variety of opportunities such as: House Drama, directed, written and choreographed by students; the annual whole school production; and, a number of practical skills based student led clubs such as improvisation club and musical theatre club.

Whilst many students may have extra-curricular experience of Drama or will have experienced learning through the medium of Drama when they join in year 7, study of the subject as a discrete academic subject and art form will be new to most. As such, the year 7 curriculum is focussed around the development of a range of fundamental Drama and Theatre skills. Topics, such as Physical Storytelling and Roald Dahl script work, are chosen in order to harness imagination and make this the forefront of their theatre making approach and experience. Throughout the year students develop sound technical terminology and knowledge whilst focussing on the skill of applying this in a range of contexts: reinterpreting texts, staging texts and devising their own work. The year is sequenced progressively to build upon students' skillsets from previous topics whilst removing structures to promote independent and risk taking theatre makers. In year 9 this innovative approach is revisited but developed upon as students must utilise these skills for a specific style whilst they are also encouraged to think about the wider context of their theatre how we link theatre to the world around us.

As students progress into GCSE, the outward looking approach is continued as students explore an array of new practitioners and styles within their specific contexts throughout the history of theatre. Following the Eduqas specification, the GCSE course is structured to allow for a substantial time to develop creativity and critical thinking in year 10 before revisiting and refining ideas in year 11. By the end of year 10, students have developed an original piece of theatre in a chosen style, combining all of their skills learnt in the first year of the course. Practically, students are supported to step out of their comfort zone and confidently make independent creative choices in both their own original work and in the development of mature characterisation in existing texts from a variety of time periods, contexts and styles. Throughout the course students

experience a range of engaging texts and live theatre performances whilst being taught how to critically analyse them, and questioning the meaning making process and the audience experience in theatre.

Drama & Theatre Studies at A Level course is designed and run with a broad but detailed focus on the academic and practical knowledge of Drama, introducing new, higher level thinking concepts whilst furthering and challenging existing knowledge in a more sophisticated way. Students have greater choice over the styles and texts they perform over the course of their three A Level performances, rather than studying a limited, prescribed course. Like at GCSE, students analyse and explore play texts from a range of time periods and styles but the number of texts is larger and their study involves a deeper investigation into the plays context and playwrights, from economic policies to political movements. Visiting workshops with key practitioners and thought-provoking theatre trips help stimulate ideas and question students' perception of theatre. Furthermore, students are exposed to practitioners, playwrights, critics and academia beyond the exam board specification, not only to challenge students but ultimately to make them well-rounded discerning theatre practitioners. Our hope is to produce confident young people who think outside the box with their all aspects of their work and help to inspire some of our students to pursue this subject at university and beyond.

Key Stage 3

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Drama Skills Introduction	n/a	Devising Theatre Delivered Through TPM
Physical Storytelling		
Page to Stage: Working with a script		

Key Stage 4 – GCSE Exam Board: Eduqas Drama

Year 10	Year 11
Key Practitioners and Theatre Companies	Scripted Performance
Performance and Technical Design Skills	DNA by Dennis Kelly: Exam Preparation
DNA by Dennis Kelly: Getting to know the text	Live Theatre Trip and Evaluation
Devising Theatre	
Live Theatre Trip and Evaluation	

Key Stage 5 – A Level: Eduqas Drama and Theatre

Year 12	Year 13
Key Practitioners and Theatre Companies	Devising and Scripted Performance from a stimulus (external exam)
Technical Design Skills (Ground Plans, Tech Scripts)	Chimerica: staging the text
Hedda Gabler: staging the text	Live Theatre Trip and Evaluation
Text Reinterpretation Performance (internal exam)	Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time: staging the text
Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time: staging the text	Revision for the written exam: text, practitioner, performance and technical skills recap, writing structures.
Live Theatre Trip and Evaluation	