

ST RICHARD'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Drama Department Information Booklet



The drama department at St Richard's exists as part of the broad-based curriculum and supports the values and beliefs of the faith community in which it exists. Drama aims to engage and inspire each pupil whilst developing integral transferable skills for all possible futures. Drama is a place where all can, and will, achieve their potential.

Description

Drama is a one person department which exist within the Performing Arts faculty. The drama teacher is responsible for all teaching and learning at both KS3 and KS4.

In addition, the drama teacher is also responsible for all extra-curricular enrichment which currently includes one lunchtime club for year seven on a Tuesday and an advanced skills workshop for all years after school on a Thursday every week. These drama clubs contribute to the liturgical life of the school, with pupils taking part in all masses. They have also taken part in local and national Shakespeare festivals; transition projects with local primary schools; workshops led by visiting practitioners; acting opportunities at Bexhill College alongside their in-house theatre company, and much more. Pupils will rehearse for these events during most lunchtimes and after school as required.

The biggest extra-curricular commitment is the annual summer show which is produced in collaboration with dance and music. Past productions include: 'Thoroughly Modern Millie', 'Back to the 80's' and 'Our House'. Each year, the Performing Arts faculty include up to 100 pupils in all areas of production (including an orchestra and backstage team), and the show is performed to audiences over three nights in the penultimate week of the school year.

Facilities

The main teaching space for drama is the studio at the back of the hall; however teaching is more frequently taking place in the hall and on the proscenium stage as class numbers grow.



Departmental Resources

- Audio visual and recording equipment (recently updated)
- Props store and basic costumes
- Library of play scripts and set texts for study
- A set of AQA approved textbooks for teaching of new GCSE specification
- A new and extensive range of LED lighting equipment on a professional standard rig in the hall, complete with high quality desk
- All PA and sound equipment needed for a full-scale stage including 2 head/radio microphones
- A selection of detachable staging units, treads, blocks and other various set items
- £1200 yearly budget

KS3 curriculum

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 are taught drama on a rotation with dance, meaning they receive one lesson a week for half of the year. The curriculum is made up of units aimed at developing skills around ensemble, technique, style, atmosphere, genre etc. Classes are taught in mixed ability groups of approximately 16-20.

Pupils in Year 9 have the option to choose their Performing Arts curriculum and those who opt into drama receive two lessons a week for the whole year. There are currently 60 pupils (2 classes) following this course in Year 9. The curriculum is formed of mock GCSE units around devising, script work and written response to drama. Pupils are also offered the chance to opt into a Performing Arts Curriculum which follows the Arts Award Bronze and works towards musical theatre and educational performances both in and out of school. There are currently 92 pupils following Performing Arts in Year 9, across 3 classes.

Pupils at KS3 are assessed both discretely throughout the course and formally at the end of each half term. Data is recorded and communicated with parents and carers three times a year. All targets are set by the Performing Arts department and consistently reviewed as part of a data analysis cycle.

KS4 curriculum

Pupils at GCSE follow the AQA exam which is made up of three components: Understanding Drama, Devising Drama and Texts in Practice. Put simply, this involves one devised unit with response to a stimulus (which includes a written logbook to evidence the process); an externally assessed performance from a published play, and an exam (which includes the analysis of a text; multiple choice questions around the roles within a theatre, and a live theatre review).

KS4 pupils have three lessons a week - at least one of which is taught in a classroom rather than the studio. Revision sessions are provided on a weekly basis and intervention is offered for pupils who underachieve at any point during the GCSE course. Pupils are expected to rehearse in their own time and complete a weekly written homework task.

KS4 pupils are assessed twice each term through both practical and written formal assessments. This data is communicated with home 5 times a year. All targets are set by the drama teacher and consistently reviewed as part of a data analysis cycle.

Examination results

2016: 88% A* - C

2017: 64% A* - C

Pupil response to drama

The pupils at St Richard's engage fully with drama and the Performing Arts as a whole. The talent and enthusiasm of the pupils is endless and there is never a shortage of willing participants. Pupil voice continues to evidence how much is gained from the large amount of enrichment on offer and the summer show is testament to this fact.

