

St Bede's School  
Drama Department

**Philosophy of the Drama Department**

The nature of the subject is in total accordance with the aims of the school, in celebrating and developing the traits of the individual, so that students are 'prepared ... to lead a full and worthwhile life in the wider world as well-rounded, confident and balanced members of their communities'. Consequently we feel that theatre and drama are at the hub of the school's work of making life-long learning accessible and appealing to all. As a key element of the public face of the school, through our many performances, we recognise the responsibility and possibility that such a flagship department brings and exploit all opportunities for growth.

**Structure of the Department**

The Drama Department are in a purpose-built complex in which we continually look for new ways to use our space. The well-equipped and spacious building teaching offers exciting performance opportunities. All of the drama staff are able to teach in the same area, which allows for a greater amount of team teaching and shared practice - which is invaluable in this organic, fast-moving department.

We currently have 3 fulltime members of staff and 2 part time members.

**Curriculum and Examinations**

In Year 9, pupils can choose Drama as an option subject, which generally means that students have elected to take the subject and therefore are keen to participate and learn more about the craft. This allows for projects that really stretch the students to formulate ideas and opinions, to evaluate and reflect on their work, and perform with skill and integrity. The Year 9 course is designed to be explorative and challenging for pupils of all abilities. The areas/topics covered should also reflect the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our Year 9 intake.

Study at GCSE level is not streamlined. The departmental philosophy of encouraging all our students to approach drama in a deeper and more critical way is vital to all participants, especially those with special learning needs. All students are expected to take part in every exercise and project studying a diverse range of texts, improvisation projects and devised theatre pieces. The current course (Edexcel - GCSE Drama) is geared towards the practical exploration of drama and the recording of the experiences in both a practical and written format.

Two discrete courses are offered at A-Level; EDEXCEL Theatre Studies and EDEXCEL Performing Arts. Both courses are equal in status and give students an opportunity to do work that is scripted, devised and adapted. Both

courses have written and practical coursework elements as well as practical exams that are externally moderated. However, the Performing Arts course does not consist of any written exams, whereas Theatre Studies Unit 4 is a written paper. We do not stream any of our classes but do attempt to guide students to the most suitable course for them.

There are a number of students who have gone on to study Acting, Directing and Stage Management at the top London Drama Schools after completing these A-Levels; this is achieved with the full support and guidance of the department.

## Teacher of Drama

### The Successful Candidate:

We wish to appoint a teacher who shows a high level of motivation, flexibility and resourcefulness. The successful candidate will be able to:

- Make drama exciting and stimulating to young people
- Develop and employ a wide range of teaching and learning strategies
- Show energy, ambition and enthusiasm
- Work as a part of a team
- To be intuitive to the needs of others in the department and be ready to help where necessary
- Show a willingness to become technically equipped to support productions
- Contribute to a dynamic and developing department
- Show competence in teaching drama across the age range from Year 9 to A2 level
- Encourage and challenge pupils of all abilities
- Contribute to the extra-curricular activities program of both the school and especially the department (which are considerable)
- Use their initiative
- Be committed to the challenging but rewarding demands of the subject