

Q	What would a ‘successful Drama student’ look like?
A	The most important qualities are: imagination, interest and a willingness to work well with other people. Collaborative work is a significant aspect of the class work and the practical work.
Q	Does it suit a certain type of student?
A	Again, the ability to work as part of a team is very important. The practical work could be seen as ‘project work’ – you develop the work over a period of weeks; sometimes over months. Do you enjoy creating something, with others, over a longer period of time?
Q	What exam board and specification do we use?
A	We use the AQA GCSE Drama 8261. You can read about the course, download the specification and look at the various assessment units at: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261
Q	What is the overview of the course?
A	The course aims to develop a student’s knowledge and understanding of both theory work in Drama (written exam) and practical drama work (NEAs: non-exam assessments, or ‘practical’s’). The NEAs are worth 60% of the GCSE: the written exam is worth 40%
Q	How does course assessment break down?
A	Component 1: written exam (done in the Summer of Year 11) 40% of the GCSE Component 2: Devised Drama practical - 40% of the GCSE: your teacher gives the class a stimulus on a specific theme. Students devise a performance piece of Drama, which is filmed and assessed. Students also write a Devising Log, documenting their ideas, rehearsals, design work and performance. Component 3: Texts in Practice – 20% of the GCSE: usually done in the January and February of Year 11, students either design for, or perform in, two extracts from the same chosen play. The students chose which play they want to use.
Q	Can I choose my skill to be assessed on?
A	Yes. For both NEAs (practical’s), you can choose to PERFORM or to DESIGN
Q	What design skill choices are there?
A	You can choose to design <u>one from</u> : COSTUME, SET, LIGHTING, SOUND, PUPPETRY
Q	How are designers assessed?
A	Through their final design work, as seen live in the performance, and through their portfolio, which documents their ideas, process and final designs. So, a set designer will have the finished set, as seen in a performance. They will also have their portfolio, documenting their initial ideas, their period of making/creating, and their finished set design. It would be the same for a costume designer

Q	What is on a written exam?
A	Three sections: Section A: a short, multiple-choice section on theatre stages and positions Section B: set text – an extract and 4 questions Section C: an essay about a live theatre performance that you have seen
Q	Do I need to put Drama as my 1st option choice?
A	Most, but not all, students do; we are usually a very popular option subject at GCSE.
Q	How would I be assessed in Drama?
A	Through the practical units (NEAs), through term-time practical and written work, and through the written exam.
Q	What set text do we study?
A	We study <i>Blood Brothers</i> , by Willy Russell. On the exam, you are asked to write about it from a performance and design perspective.
Q	Would we see live theatre?
A	Yes. Currently, we use Digital Theatre Plus as our streaming platform to watch productions. In a 'normal' year, we would see between 3 and 5 productions, to prepare you to write about Live Theatre (exam paper) and to broaden your understanding and appreciation of live performances.
Q	What are the department's results usually like?
A	We have a very strong record of results. Remember that you have the opportunity to build your grade as you progress through the course. By the time you sit the written exam in the Summer of Year 11, you will already have been assessed on 60% of the GCSE. Our students typically gain high marks and grades on their NEA assessments, and also in the written exam.