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**DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA**

# Assistant Headteacher with overall responsibility for Performing Arts: Miss Alexis Pelling

# Subject Leader Performing Arts: Mr Karl Bunton

This is a dynamic team who have developed exciting approaches to drama throughout the curriculum. We expect and receive very high standards of both written work and performance from all students across the ability range.

We are in the enviable position to offer new and challenging arts courses including: GCE Drama and Theatre (Edexcel), GCSE Drama (EDUQAS) and the Bronze Arts Award (Trinity). Students make their option choices in Year 8 allowing for a three year GCSE programme.

At Key Stage 3 all students have one hour of Drama per week. Drama has its own specialist drama studio with lighting and sound; there are also two other dedicated drama rooms. At Key Stage 4 students have two hours of Drama a week and at Key Stage 5 students have five hours a week.

Extra-curricular activities are an integral element of this department area. Lower school clubs run at least once a week. These are extremely popular and are enthusiastically attended. Past and current projects have included: Year 7 drama and music clubs presenting work at a community carol concert and the Year 7 and 8 Drama clubs performing plays to parents and friends in the drama studio. Performing Arts evenings, showcasing work from all clubs, are also a regular feature of the school calendar. The school has achieved Gold Artsmark in recognition of the school’s commitment to the arts.

There is a whole school musical production every year, which attracts overwhelming support. Our latest productions have included: Grease, We Will Rock You, High School Musical Jr, Honk!, Guys and Dolls, Bugsy Malone, Oklahoma!, Annie, Oliver!, and The Wizard of Oz. They are a great success and enthusiastically attended by parents, students and governors. The shows draw on the expertise of most departments in the school and involve over 120 students and many staff. In the summer term there is a school play which is performed in the drama studio and recent productions include: Abi Morgan's Fugee and Shakespeare's Macbeth. This year we look forward to performing A Midsummer Night's Dream.

We work closely together with the music, dance and art departments and support each other in promoting the arts.