**DRAMA DEPARTMENT**

The Drama Department at Nower Hill High School is an integral component of the Arts Faculty. The department consists of a team of very creative, hardworking and committed specialists with a real enthusiasm and passion for their subject. There is a strong ethos of collaboration between colleagues to provide the most challenging environment for our students. We also have a newly appointed part-time technician who supports the Drama Department in many ways and is a real asset. The Drama Department has a strong tradition of excellence in performance, exam results and most importantly is a Department where all students can be involved in the many aspects of performance regardless of their ability. Drama is hugely respected and supported in school by the senior leadership team, staff, students, parents and carers and the wider community.

All members of the Drama team are committed to providing students with many opportunities to take part in all aspects of Drama and performance including the chance for students to help behind the scenes with make-up, costume, set and lighting. Every year we have a large-scale all-inclusive school production which gives students in all years the chance to work together and create a polished performance of an exceptionally high standard. Last year we staged *Les Miserables, Schools Edition* and this year we were selected to take part in the ‘National Theatre Connections Project’ which was hugely exciting.

Yearly, we have students from Years 7-13 take part in the ‘Watford Drama Festival’ and have done for the last decade. We have a legacy of fantastic achievements at the Festival winning many first places and trophies. We also enter A-Level Drama students in solo acting competitions at the festival and the last time they were entered achieved first, second and third place in the same class! In addition to this Nower Hill students have won the ‘Redhead Trophy’ for ‘most memorable group performance’ of the entire festival six times. Students are also offered regular theatre trips, which give them a more eclectic view of Drama and Theatre. The past few years we have developed a close working relationship with other local schools to enrich the delivery of GCSE and A-Level Drama. This has included working closely with Harrow School and The Globe theatre in London on a ‘Shakespeare Project’, which culminates in Nower Hill students performing on one of the Globe stages. We also organise visits by professional actors and Theatre companies who run workshops with our GCSE and A-level students, for example; Fourth Monkey Theatre Company, Central School of Speech and Drama, Actors of Dionysus, Stage-Ed and Complicite Theatre Company.

We have a broad and ambitious curriculum at KS3, where students have the opportunity to experience many styles of Drama and Theatre. Our schemes of work are up to date, and are reviewed and modified regularly. Students in Year 7 and 8 have one timetabled Drama lesson of 100 minutes every two weeks (the school has a two-week timetable). Our students commence the GCSE Drama course in Yr9 and take the examination in Yr11. We prepare students for both GCSE Drama (AQA) and A-Level Drama and Theatre (EdExcel/Pearson). GCSE students have three lessons each week and A-Level students have six lessons each week.

We are an extremely well-resourced Department with two purpose built Drama Studios which are equipped with lighting rigs, curtains and a variety of props and scenery. The lighting facilities in one of our Drama Studios have just been updated to high spec LED lights. ICT plays an important part in the teaching and learning which takes place in the Drama Department and each colleague is given their own chrome book for use in school. In addition to this both Drama Studios are fitted with a PC and DVD Facilities, speakers, a fitted LCD projector, internet access and access to the centrally stored digital resources. One of our Drama Studios is also fitted with an interactive whiteboard as well as a small ICT suite with 6 student PCs. We also make full use of the school’s managed learning environment (G-suite) to support teaching and learning.

The staff in the Arts Faculty and Drama Department are extremely supportive of each other and embrace the strong culture of working collaboratively. The atmosphere of the Arts Faculty and Drama Department is very positive and teaching in this environment is productive and, most of all, exciting. If you are enthusiastic and committed to providing an outstanding education for our students and above all have a love for Drama in all its diverse forms, then we are the ideal department and school for you.

Our Head of department who has been with us for over 15 years, is now leaving us to work closer to her home and we are looking to maintain, if not further evolve our Drama provision.

05/23 JB