

Drama Department

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| Details and Information |
| The Drama department has grown rapidly over the last four years and is still expanding.   Numbers at GCSE and A Level are healthy, with two classes at GCSE and 24 students currently studying A Level over Years 12 and 13. Drama is taught through years 7 to 8 for an hour a week, with students opting to continue the subject in year 9 as part of their expressive arts curriculum.  Lessons are delivered in our new theatre space and in our 2 studio spaces adjoining the theatre. We also have access to and teach in our hall complete with Proscenium stage. Both these performance spaces are fully equipped with lighting and sound equipment and we have a strong tradition of GCSE and A level students completing their course through the production side of drama.  Universally, our students are positive, enthusiastic and enjoy both the performance and academic elements of the curriculum. The department aims to foster a love of the arts and regular theatre trips and in-house performance opportunities are well attended and feed directly into the curriculum. Trips to London, Oxford, Stratford-Upon-Avon and many places besides are organised by the department and sometimes in conjunction with the English or Music departments. |

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| Curriculum | |
| Key Stage 4 | KS4 achieves very highly in the examination experience and our students consistently attain at least 90% grade A\* to C. The Eduqas Drama and Theatre course combines a devised performance, a scripted performance, controlled assessment and a final written examination. Students study a range of theatre practitioners and genres in the preparation of their practical work. |
| Key Stage 5 | At KS5 students produce scripted, devised and reinterpreted text performances, using practitioners and both classic and modern texts as a starting point. Students embrace all styles and genres of Drama and particularly like to be challenged beyond their comfort zone which is evidenced in their continual high grades and drama related placements at top universities and drama schools. |
| AS/A Level | Year 12 are entered for the AS qualification and all A’ level students have the option to complete a Gold Arts Award as part of their course. |
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| The department has maintained well-established links with outside agencies to broaden the experience of our KS4 and KS5 students. We work closely with Chipping Norton Theatre and in-house practitioners to broaden student experience; many of our students have gone on to successfully complete industry-related work experience each year.  Annually we produce one substantial, whole school production and several showcases, as well as exam performances for Years 10-13. The Cotswold School ethos thrives on students working independently and in Drama this is seen in student-led showcases and productions. A Level students are invited to apply to be an assistant director on the main production but also actively encouraged to independently direct, choreograph and plan key scenes. Students select, engage with and manage very challenging scripts for their own exam performances.  The Drama department is seen as a part of the school in which there is always something happening. The students thrive on the pressure and joy of performing and our aim is to provide as many opportunities for the students as possible. It is a high-energy department which is always looking for the next challenge. | |

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