



Drama Learning Area

LEARNING AREA

The Drama Learning Area is part of the Performing Arts Area of Experience which is very well resourced. Accommodation includes a large Theatre with tiered seating for 400, a Dance Studio with sprung floors and full length mirrors, a Drama Studio, a Music Technology Suite and a Music Room with adjoining Practice Rooms. The facilities are perhaps some of the best in the country. The Drama Studio is a large open plan space with changing rooms adjacent. Staff and students also benefit from having access to the Theatre which is fully equipped with sound, lighting and projector screens.

The Performing Arts are very strong at the Academy, valued and supported by parents, students and staff. The area enjoys a high profile both within the Academy, our feeder Primary schools and the local community.

STAFFING

Currently, four full-time teachers and two part-time teachers work within the Performing Arts Area. A Head of Performing Arts and Music manages the curriculum and day to day running of the department. There is one further Teacher of Drama. The Performing Arts staff work closely together and are a fantastic supportive team of professionals, one well worth joining.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

In 2023, 95% of students successfully passed the Level 1/2 BTEC Tech Award in Acting with 23% gaining the Distinction or Distinction* standard.

100% of students successfully passed the Level 3 BTEC courses with 40% gaining a Distinction*/Distinction at the close of the course.



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TEACHING AND LEARNING

Drama is a very popular subject with a healthy uptake into Key Stage 4. Committed, conscientious and dynamic staff ensure that students achieve their full potential whilst developing a passion for the subject.

Students are taught in mixed ability groups. A wide range of genres, styles and practitioners are studied to enrich and develop students' understanding and experience. Creativity, imagination and commitment are at the heart of the Drama ethos. All students are encouraged in a culture where success is celebrated.

Key Stage 3

Students are taught in mixed ability groups of 26 students allowing a differentiated approach to our curriculum management. Students receive a one and a half hour session weekly, in six to eight week blocks alternating with Dance and Music at Key Stage 3. The curriculum for Drama is delivered through a core focus of three topics through the year, each with an assessment focus. Units of study focus primarily on introducing basic acting skills and characterisation skills. Student achievement by the end of Key Stage 3 is well above national expectations.

Key Stage 4

Drama is a popular subject at Key Stage 4 with a good uptake. Students receive a three hour session a week within the two year programme of study. All students follow the Edexcel Level 1/2 BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts and a number of students may also pursue the Arts Award within the same programme of study.

Key Stage 5

In the Sixth Form students study two courses: the Edexcel NQF BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (Acting) or the Edexcel NQF BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Performing Arts (Acting). Students studying the Extended Certificate receive two three hour sessions a week, those studying the Diploma receive four three hour sessions a week.

ENRICHMENT

The Performing Arts offer a wide and varied programme of extra-curricular activities including an annual musical production, Key Stage 3 Drama Club and a Key Stage 5 Advanced Stage Academy. This is an integral part of the role advertised. The Academy has also run projects with the Welsh National Opera, Royal Opera House, Ballet Central, Shakespeare in Schools, Catcher Media and Walsall Council Creative Development Team for our students and those from local Primary Schools. Students are encouraged to get involved and there are a high number of public performances through the year.