

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Drama and Theatre

Q 1. Do I need to have studied Drama or Performing Arts at GCSE to study A Level Drama?

No! Students need to have an enjoyment of the theatre and performance, but do not need to have studied it at high school.

Q 2. What's the difference between A Level Drama and BTEC Performing Arts?

They both have some similarities. Both courses are Level 3 courses, meaning that if you get a Distinction in the BTEC course, it is equivalent to getting an A* in A Level Drama.*

The main difference is in how they are assessed:

- ◆ *The BTEC course has 4 units over the 2 years, 3 of which are very practically assessed with accompanying coursework. 2 units are externally set by the exam board, one focus on Investigating Practitioner's work, the other is Group Performance Workshop.*
- ◆ *The A level course is a brilliant blend of practical work and theory, including text interpretation, analysis, devising and performance. You will study 5 plays over two years and explore a range of practitioners and styles using influence from live and digital theatre performance.*

You will get 24/7 access to digital theatre plus and the National Theatre Collection as part of your course materials.

Q 3. Can I study A Level Drama AND BTEC Performing Arts?

Yes, of course. Many of our students who aspire to a career in the performing arts or just have a love of the subject and decide to study both.

Q 4. How much practical work is there in A Level Drama?

Lots! All components of study will be taught using practical means. Components 1 and 2 are assessed through your practical work and accompanying coursework. Component 3, even though it is



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

assessed through a written exam, you will explore the three plays practically to realise your ideas.

Q 5. What are the facilities like?

We have invested in state-of-the-art facilities in Performing arts. We have a 188-seat theatre with top of the range light and sound equipment, a control room and live recording studio; a mirrored dance studio and dedicated rehearsal rooms.

Q 6. Does the College put on shows?

Yes! We make regular use of our excellent facilities and put on high quality, sell-out shows and performances as regularly as possible. We offer a range of enrichments across college such as the college productions (musicals and plays), the MANCEP Shakespeare Festival, Dance showcase, Talent Show, Concerts and much more.

This year, due to the pandemic, instead of the planned season of shows, we are using more virtual means to present our performances and will be celebrating 10 years of the Greatest Hits at Loreto through the academic year!

Q 7. What support do you provide for students wanting to study at drama schools?

Whether you are applying to study performance at University at drama school, you will most likely have to prepare for and attend an audition.

We offer dedicated and bespoke training and support sessions for students wishing to apply to drama school or performance training centres and conservatoires. We will provide 1-2-1 training and tuition for your audition monologues, songs and repertoire, as well as support with the application process itself.

We have a brilliant track record of success; students have gone onto the most prestigious drama schools including RADA, LAMDA, East 15, Italia Conti, Mountview, Arts Ed and ALRA

All department staff are highly trained and have a wealth of industry experience. We have excellent links to our past students who have gone onto drama school and the performing arts sector and have industry professionals and representatives from drama



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

schools and accredited drama training universities regularly delivering masterclasses and Q and A sessions to give you the best advice each year.

Q 8. Can I be assessed as a designer for A Level Drama?

Yes! All students will study from the perspective of a performer, director and designer. In practical assessment, student can select their chosen specialism; performer, lighting designer, sound designer, set designer and costume designer (including hair and make-up)

