

KS3 Drama

The Drama Department is a lively, enthusiastic place to be. We offer students the ability to learn key acting and directing skills right from the start and then developing them into our Btec Acting course. We not only focus on this but ensure students learn key skills for life. We pride ourselves on deepening student's confidence and group work skills which support them not only in Drama but within any subject.

We have our annual school production which can either be a play or a musical. Previous productions have been Alice in Wonderland, Peter Pan, Dickens' Children and We Will Rock You. Each production comes along with a professional costume and lighting designers who have worked alongside the department for the last 4 years. Along with this, we have always invited professional actors in to hold workshops related to the productions. An example of this is when we directed Peter Pan and two Disney stunt coordinators visited and directed the epic fight scene on Hooks ship.

Learning and skills: Students will build their confidence and self-esteem in, and through, performance work and working as a team. Drama at St James is approached through practical devised work using a range of techniques, lighting, music and sound effects. All students are introduced to the basic skills of group work, improvisation and different ways of working with a script or text. All students enjoy this practical subject that helps develop their creative thinking and negotiation skills and their ability to work as part of a team. Our aim is to build students' self-esteem, emotional intelligence and confidence through specifically themed projects that involve individual exercises and movement work, group improvisations and class performances.

Drama Curriculum: The Curriculum at KS3 begins to develop the skills which are needed for the Drama GCSE. Students will focus on characterisation, voice, gesture, stage and stage through a variety of projects. Not only will they rehearse scenes from published scripts, students will also create scenes from using a variety of stimuli. Below is a sample of scripts and stimuli which have previously been used:

Scripts

- Romeo and Juliet – William Shakespeare
- A Midsummer Nights Dream – William Shakespeare
- Gizmo – Alan Ayckbourn
- Machine Gunners – Nick Hern
- The Last Resort – Chris Owen

Stimuli

- Poems
- Pictures

- Music
- Newspaper articles Assessment Students are assessed within the school assessment cycle using the Arts Council Drama level descriptors. Students regularly peer-assess their performances to revise and improve work in progress.

Enrichment: The Drama department frequently arranges visits to the theatre specifically for KS3 students which can either be local performances or a residential trip to London.