

Drama



Drama is a subject that is vital in helping students to improve their communication skills. Drama also addresses other skill areas such as creativity, decision making and teamwork.

Drama is a practical and social art form prompting students to use their body, voice, intellect and imagination.

Drama requires discipline from students so that they can improve and excel.

Drama at Rishworth

Years 7 to 9 have one lesson a week of Drama. Within this time, students are able to create their own devised pieces of theatre as well using scripts written by others, they will be given opportunities to perform in a number of different styles and will learn how to structure their work so that it communicates effectively to an audience. They will learn about aspects of the history and practice of theatre and how it has become an exciting and contemporary art form. Students in these years will be given a number of opportunities to audition for performances that the department presents.

Students in later years will also have the chance to take part in these performances but may want to take on production roles instead or as well, potentially putting on performances directed by themselves with minimal staff input.

The GCSE course delivered at Rishworth is the Eduqas specification for Drama and comprises three units: devising theatre, performing from a text and interpreting theatre

Coursework accounts for 60% of the examination and there is a written paper at the end of the course making up the other 40%. The coursework element includes both the devised and scripted performance assessments and the final examination is on a set text and the reviewing of live theatre.

A Level Drama also follows the Eduqas specification and is made up of three components. These involve practical performance of theatrical texts, devising for performance and the study of set texts. All of this is underpinned by teaching on the history of theatre and the theory that lies behind it. 20% of this is internally assessed

coursework, there is a practical examination accounting for 40% and a written paper at the end of the course making up the other 40%

The A Level course is challenging and it is advisable that students taking it have a good pass at GCSE Drama or an equivalent qualification. The subject involves regular theatre visits see live theatre as part of the examination and students often put in extra time after school when creating examination work. It is a wide ranging course that is an excellent springboard to study at a higher level in a large number of areas.

Outside the Classroom

In the coming year there will be two major productions with the opportunity for students to take part in other smaller performances.

In November we will be performing 'The Tempest' at the Lawrence Batley Theatre in Huddersfield as part of the Shakespeare Schools' Festival. In the lead up to Easter there will also be a production of 'Alice in Wonderland', to be performed at Rishworth. Both of these will be open to anyone who wishes to audition.

Students will, in addition, have the opportunity to visit live theatre; recent school theatre visits have taken place to Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford and Oldham.

