

## Key Stage 4/Year 10

**Course title: GCSE Drama**

**Exam board: Edexcel**

**Specification code: 1DR0**

Autumn 1 (September- October)	<b>Stylised theatre</b> We begin the GCSE course by exploring some new practical skills and techniques which are designed to equip students with the ability to create imaginative and inventive performances in the Component 1: Devising project. Most lessons will be practical in this first part of the course, covering a range of techniques and strategies, watching example devised performances and practicing creating short performances.
Autumn 2 (October- December), Spring 1 (January- February)	<b>Component 3: Theatre evaluation</b> Throughout year 10 the students will watch some professional live theatre in preparation for the year 11 written exam (Component 3). This work gives them confidence with technical theatre terminology, practice questions, and ways to create their own theatre which is useful for Component 1 and 2, and the 'DNA' work they will go onto in year 11. Both acting and design skills are studied and evaluated.
Autumn 1 (September- October), Autumn 2 (October- December), Spring 1 (January- February), Summer 1 (April-May)	<b>Component 1: Devising practical (10%)</b> The stylised theatre skills developed at the beginning of the year and the ongoing theatre evaluation work will inform the creative process completed in this project. Students will work as part of a group to create and perform an original play. This will be performed towards the end of May in year 10. This is assessed by the teachers and makes up 10% of the GCSE grade. This is the first piece of work that is formally assessed in the course. Notes will be made in bespoke booklets throughout this rehearsal process to document ideas and choices. These booklets will be used when students complete the coursework portfolios next half term.

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Summer 2 (June-July)	<p><b>Component 1: Devising written portfolio (30%)</b></p> <p>The coursework portfolio is a significant piece of work and as such we allow an appropriate amount of time for students to fully focus on it this half term. The word limit is 2000 words, and the essay is structured with 6 questions set by the exam board. The booklets that have been completed during the rehearsal process will inform this essay, and further evaluation of the final performance will be included too. This coursework essay can only be completed after the performances in May, and we aim to have it finished before the students return in September, as they will need to move onto focusing on the two externally assessed Components (2 &amp; 3) which have fixed assessment windows.</p>
Autumn 1 (September-October), Autumn 2 (October-December), Spring 1 (January-February), Summer 1 (April-May)	<p><b>Component 3: DNA and theatre evaluation (40%)</b></p> <p>The component 3 written exam has a fixed assessment window of May in year 11. The study of the set text, 'DNA' and the theatre evaluation work will continue throughout year 11, in parallel with the component 2 practical work. Exploration of the play will involve some practical workshops but will be mainly theory based. Students will study the text, context, design elements and acting skills involved. They will complete practice papers and develop their exam technique. Specific theatre terminology is key and students will draw on what they have learned throughout Key Stages 3 and 4 so far, including their own practical performance experiences.</p>
Autumn 1 (September-October), Autumn 2 (October-December), Spring 1 (January-February)	<p><b>Component 2: Performing scripts (20%)</b></p> <p>The performance exam window is between February and March of year 11. For this reason, we begin focused work preparing for this in September of year 11. Their recent performance in the year 10 devising project is great experience and leads to a more sophisticated piece of work in component 2. Students must produce two pieces of performance work for this component and they can choose to take on the role of actor or designer (lighting, costume, or sound). The pieces must be from professionally written and published plays. This work is worth 20% of the GCSE course. This work runs parallel to the Component 3 preparation.</p>