



# Drama GCSE

[www.aqa.co.uk/subjects/drama](http://www.aqa.co.uk/subjects/drama)

Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Head of Department
GCSE Drama	AQA	8261	Miss Cordell

**Course Information** Drama GCSE is an academic subject but includes plenty of practical work, making it a great option. 60% of the GCSE grade is based on practical performances and written coursework which really eases the pressure of those last few terms of Year 11.

Drama is a great subject for developing essential study and life skills which can be used across your school career – and beyond!

**Skills/Aptitude Required** We're looking for pupils who are willing to explore new ideas, are creative, good team players and keen to develop performance skills. There is a fair amount of writing involved (including a 2 hour written exam) so a good level of literacy is important.

**Internal Assessment Component 3 (40%)** A devised piece performed & recorded in school with a written portfolio of coursework.

**External Assessment Component 1 (40%)** Written Exam (1 hour 45 mins) taken at the end of Year 11.

**Component 2 (20%)** Scripted scenes. Performed to a visiting AQA examiner.

## The Course in Depth

**Year 9 Topics Covered** Year 9 builds skills and knowledge through two very practical projects:  
 1. A whole class production performed to an invited audience of family and friends.  
 2. A group Devising Theatre project, creating an original performance.

**Year 10 Topics Covered** Year 10 begins with an introduction to 3 styles of theatre:  
 • Naturalism  
 • Epic  
 • Physical Theatre

These are taught through a series of practical workshops. In the second half of the year we work on our first exam component – Devising Theatre worth 40% of the GCSE.

**Year 11 Topics Covered** There are 2 exam components to cover in Year 11:

**2 Scripted Scenes**  
 Performed to a visiting examiner.

**The Written Exam**  
 This is based on exploration of a set text (currently Blood Brothers) and a live theatre production we have watched.

**Next Steps** Drama GCSE is the perfect preparation for further study on our BTEC National Diploma programme, but is also a good basis for any subject or pathway requiring research, essay writing or 'real life' skills.

**Future Careers** "The UK's Creative Industries contribute almost £13 million to the UK economy every hour" Gov.uk (Feb 2020).

Studying Drama isn't just about wanting to be an actor or director, it prepares students for a whole host of career opportunities by equipping them with the skills and aptitude to succeed. Past students have gone on to successful careers in:

- Teaching
- Law
- Journalism
- Film
- Media Design
- PR
- Retail
- Museums
- Photography
- Therapy
- Psychology
- Events Management
- Theatre

*"Arts education isn't something we add on after we've achieved other priorities, it's actually critical for achieving those priorities in the first place."*

First Lady Michelle Obama