

WEST COVENTRY SIXTH FORM



West Coventry Academy

SUBJECT TRANSITION BOOK Summer 2025

Drama and Theatre

STUDENT NAME:

SCHOOL:

This booklet has been prepared by Theatre Studies staff for you to read and the work contained in it will ensure that you get off to the best possible start in this subject area. It is very important that you read this booklet carefully over the summer and have a thorough attempt to complete the work and submit it at the start of the year to your subject teacher in the very first lesson. This will be the first impression you create and is a real indicator of how seriously you are prepared to be in your studies.

A Level Drama and Theatre

This subject is taught at:

West Coventry Academy

The key staff are:

Mrs Porter – Lead Teacher of Drama
Mrs Cole - Teacher of Drama

Course Details

Course Title: A Level Drama and Theatre

Exam board: OCR

Exam Code: H459

Exam Board web site: www.ocr.org.uk

Assessment method: The A level is assessed through performance and coursework throughout the course that is both internally and externally assessed, followed by two written exams at the end of year 13.

Minimum requirement: Standard entry requirements of five 5-9 GCSE grades including English and a qualification in/or experience of Performing Arts and Acting/Drama.

About the course:

This course will develop you for a wide range of roles in industry and in higher education, by building not only your performing ability; but also your interpersonal skills, self-confidence and understanding of a wide range of issues through devising and exploring drama. You will have the opportunity to explore a range of play texts through group and individual work. This will help to develop your analytical skills whilst also building your own opinions on a range of stimuli. You will then apply this knowledge and understanding to performances, which will fully prepare you for both vocational and academic options in the future. The set texts studied will range from 18th and 19th Century and also modern day and require you to show strength, knowledge and understanding in all genres.

You will work individually and in groups for a range of tasks. Physical Theatre, Improvisation, discussion, debate, direction, devising and rehearsal techniques that will be covered in lesson time, as you develop ways of producing drama pieces that you will share in performance. Drama pieces will be worked on throughout the year alongside analytical written journals that comprehensively document the learning journey and all aspects of your development from the rehearsal stages right through to performance.

Units covered during the course:

40% Practitioners in Practice – You will research and explore the work of others, including two practitioners and one extract from a text, in order to create a **devised piece** influenced by these.

20% Exploring and performing texts – You will study one **performance text** in its entirety and work collaboratively to perform part of the text.

20% Analysing performance – You will explore how characters can be interpreted and developed ready for performance. This is assessed through a written exam but preparation must include practical study.

20% Deconstructing texts for performance – You will explore a performance text practically through the role of the director. You will deconstruct the text and explore how any of its scene can be staged and performed for an audience and this is assessed through a written exam.

Academic and Career Pathways

This qualification provides a strong base of skills for further study of the Performing Arts at University or for any role within this area or public services. The literature side of the course will help to develop skills that can be applied to professions in journalism and media as well as marketing and teaching. Including production and performance in Drama, this course will also develop your interpersonal, thinking and teamwork skills. Your self-confidence will also be improved, enabling you to confidently go on to any course at university or vocational placements that require these types of personal strengths.

What equipment will be needed for the subject?

An A4 ring binder / log book or journal

General stationery

Camera / phone to take pictures of evidence and rehearsal process

Costume & props as required for each performance piece

Comfortable / practical clothes for practical and physical workshops

Activity 1

Knowing your Theatre practitioners and companies.

Most people coming in to A Level **Drama and Theatre** have completed a GCSE Drama course. During this time you should have become familiar with some Theatre practitioner and/or companies that may include **Stanislawski**, **Brecht** or **Frantic Assembly**.

It is essential that you begin this A Level course having some understanding of what practitioners are and what influence they have on theatre every day, even if/especially if you didn't do GCSE Drama last year.

TASK

To research and create a presentation on **2 practitioners** or influential theatre companies...sometimes there is a crossover, like in the case of Frantic Assembly or DV8.

You can create a PowerPoint **or** fact file to be presented to the rest of the group during your second week back after the summer.

This is not only a great way to share information and knowledge but also for us to get to know you better.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF: *Choose a practitioner that you have NOT studied before to develop your own knowledge.*

Some examples of Theatre Practitioners to pick from:

Konstantin Stanislawski	Gecko	Jerzy Grotowski
Frantic Assembly	Katie Mitchell	Mike Leigh
Bertolt Brecht	Mike Alfreds	Kneehigh Theatre
Antonin Artaud	Peter Brook	Headlong
Augusto Boal	John Godber	Punchdrunk
Steven Berkoff	DV8	1927

Activity 2

Understanding how to approach a stimulus.

For one of your components you will be asked to create a piece of devised work from a stimulus. This is an exciting opportunity to use your ideas and imagination and work closely with others to present and direct. It is also very challenging and you need to come prepared with ideas and how to perform them.

TASK

Look at the following stimuli...

- Media and the control it has over our lives
- Seven deadly sins
- Language and communication
- Obsession
- Who are we?
- History – was it all true?

Create a **MIND-MAP** of ideas of what you could create for **3** of the stimuli.

Activity 3

Plays

During another component you will be asked to create a performance from the extracts of different plays. This is to show off your skills in interpreting others' work and highlight your performance skills.

TASK

You will all have talents and interests in different styles of drama and performance.

We will guide you through this process but you should come prepared with plays or characters that interest you and show your strengths.

Bring **2 plays** of contrasting genre or time period that you would like to perform.

- They must be published plays (able to buy, ISBN number)
- NOT screenplays (film and TV scripts)

We are interested to see what interests you and this way you take ownership of your examination and bring opportunities to the group.

How will the work produced here fit into subsequent work and the specification as a whole?

All of the above information has been selected for you to build and develop your understanding of the subject as a whole. Some of the plays that have been chosen will be used during the course and they may also be referred to in other contexts. Overall the reading will give you a good grounding of knowledge for the course and for the material that will be explored throughout.