

FITZHARRYS SCHOOL CURRICULUM SUMMARY

DRAMA

The Drama Department in Fitzharrys school is focused on developing a discipline and focus within each student so that they grow into a competent and sympathetic performer on the stage. We aim to promote self-discovery and allow the students to grow in confidence so that they are able to express themselves, work in teams and tackle challenges.

KS3

Throughout KS3, students are introduced to and given chance to explore many different techniques, skills and foci within the theatrical world. Students explore the key concepts of status, physical theatre and role-playing in steadily increasing complexity. The lessons are practical and encourage students to develop physical skills such as mime, movement, gesture as well as vocal skills of diction, pace, pitch and tone. Year 7 students take part in an Introductory Drama course which introduces them to small group work and creative response to stimuli.

KS4

Students opting for Drama at KS4 follow the Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts. This qualification consists of three modular units.

Component 1 is worth 30% of the overall mark and looks at exploring other professional practitioners' work as well as the interrelationship between different styles of performance material.

Component 2 is also worth 30% of the overall mark and in this unit, students develop skills and techniques for both rehearsals and performances. They will also evaluate and analyse their own development and performance.

Component 3 is a workshop performance devised and rehearsed by the students as a response to a brief set by the exam board. This workshop performance is assessed by an outside examiner and is worth 40% of the overall marks awarded for the qualification.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

We offer many extra-curricular opportunities, from KS3 Drama Club to the annual whole school musical production. Our KS3 Drama Club have put on several successful original productions as part of our annual summer term Arts, Technology and Culture Celebration Evening. We are proud that Year 7 students immediately get involved in performance, bringing their drama learning to life and starting the positive engagement with the Arts that continues through their time at Fitzharrys.

We have strong partnership links with Abingdon School, Pegasus Theatre and the Oxford Playhouse and have also worked with West End theatres to offer professional theatre workshops.

Theatre trips and workshops are organised through the year to support students' cultural development. Students are encouraged to see as much theatre as possible outside of school and to undertake additional drama courses such as Stagecoach if they are interested in so doing.