



The High School
Leckhampton

Year 8 **DRAMA**

Topic Titles

- Drama skills
- Melodrama
- Improvisation
- Musical Theatre

Intent

Above all else, the drama department aims to help pupils of all abilities to make the most of their potential. Everyone can gain from access to the performance arts, enriching appreciation of both the form and content of dramatic works - building empathy, understanding, teamwork and negotiation skills, as well as fostering creativity.

Links with other subjects

Drama and English have many links, including reading and analysing scripts, considering the impact of setting and understanding characterisation.

Drama and PE have many links, including understanding movement, using the space around you and considering how movement affects emotions.

Drama and History have many links, including considering the social and historical context of a text, discussing different time periods and considering different cultural norms.

How will knowledge and skills be taught?

Pupils will be focusing on developing the solid foundation of skills that they built in Year 7 to develop and progress throughout KS3 and beyond. The skills the students will be taught are:

- Practising using their body language and facial expressions
- Using freeze frames
- Using flashbacks/flash-forwards
- Working in a group
- Planning, discussing and rehearsing
- Reading, interpreting and working with scripts
- Responding to cues for improvisation

How can parents help?

Watching live performances of productions with your children will be invaluable: being able to see performances in person allows children to understand the scope of drama, the importance of using space and the art of projection. Furthermore, discussions around performances will encourage them to self-reflect on their own work, encouraging improvement and development.

Having active and lively discussions and debates with your children about current news topics and issues on a regular basis will not only help and improve their listening skills, but it will also develop their discussion and debate voice.

Recommended Reading and Preparation for Learning

- All about Theatre - National Theatre
- Acting for Young Actors: The Ultimate Teen Guide – Dinah Lenney
- Break a Leg! The Kids Guide to Acting and Stagecraft – Lise Friedman