



WESTONBIRT
— SCHOOL —

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES A-LEVEL

Click **here** to watch an introduction to Drama and Theatre from our Head of Drama

Exam Board - AQA

What can I expect from this subject?

This course assesses your engagement with play texts and your practical skills as an actor, designer or director. You will also experience opportunities of live theatre. The theoretical and practical elements of A-Level Drama and Theatre make it both a challenging and a very rewarding subject. It is by no means a soft option. We want you to have an inspiring experience of A-Level Drama and Theatre. This qualification, with AQA, emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. The best way to learn is through experience; seeing theatre and making theatre for yourself. This is a subject that will provide challenge, but enormous amounts of enjoyment. A-Level Drama and Theatre is assessed through a written examination and a series of practical performances supported by a working notebook and a reflective report.

What can I do to prepare for this course?

Drama GCSE gives a starting point but is not essential. However, an interest in live theatre is vital. Grade 7 or better in English GCSE is a good foundation for A-Level Drama and Theatre: you will have studied drama texts from a literary perspective and developed essay writing skills that will prove fundamental to success at A-Level. Opportunities for theatre and costume design is a real plus if you have done well in Art at GCSE.

What will my next steps be?

If aiming at drama school, this course is incredibly useful, and good preparation for drama or creative writing at university. Those considering joint courses in English and drama should consider studying both subjects at A-Level. Science students find this A-Level an attractive option as a fourth subject to be jettisoned or retained into the second year of A-Level. It provides breadth when it comes to university applications and offers variety to an A-Level programme.