

**Overview:**

This year, students will develop their drama skills and working methods by taking on new challenges. They will continue to use self-control, concentration and co-operation skills in order to develop as confident and effective communicators. All lessons are practical but students are encouraged to give effective verbal feedback to their peers and engage in independently planning and directing group work with insight and creativity. Physical and vocal skills continue to be a key part of learning and students refine their skills when performing to an audience. Students are also required to peer assess and self-reflect, analysing their own progress.



# Year 8 Drama

**Term 1:**

You will develop your skills as a physical actor by working on exaggerated mime skills for slapstick comedy. All of this uses your body language and facial expressions to tell the story and express a character. You will develop skills in timing and working to music, along with slow motion and acknowledging the audience. Close co-operation skills are an essential part of this task.

In the second half term you will start to use simple scripts to explore how vocal expression can communicate a character's feelings. You will work on different volumes and pace of lines to build up atmosphere and show relationships between the characters. You will use speech to create a character and try out improvising and interacting with others in a role.

You will do small performances in a group to build up your confidence and skill level.

**Term 2:**

This term you are ready to move on to longer and more developed scripts. You will look at the play 'Blood Brothers' and act out a range of scenes, trying to create realistic characters and relationships. These will be monologues and duologues. You will also explore how movement and gesture can be used to enhance a scripted performance, as well as how subtext works. This unit will test your abilities to learn lines, confidently use your voice and create believable actions for your character.

In addition, you will work on the idea of status and how power relationships work within society. You will do improvisations around characters with different status levels and discover how this can be expressed physically and vocally in your acting. You will also explore how status can change depending on situation and characters' actions.

**Term 3:**

This term you will explore some different texts including poetry for ensemble performance. You will work on spoken techniques such as narration, direct address. You will perform this in a confident and assured way, showing the range of skills you have developed this far.

You will create a devised / improvised project based around a stimulus or starting point. You will be expected to show your character skills and ability to structure an effective piece of drama, along with excellent cooperation and group work skills

You will finish the year much more confident and ready to tackle exciting new projects in year 9!