



Speech and Drama at Dauntsey's

Please find below further information on the Speech & Drama Programme and the syllabi on offer.

Three syllabi are on offer, to allow pupils breadth of study in contrasting disciplines.

Acting

The Acting syllabus encourages pupils to develop physical, vocal and interpretive skills whilst they explore characters and investigate the background of dramatic texts. Clear speaking and character portrayal are the focal point for the lower grades, whilst pupils working toward their Bronze, Silver or Gold Medal (Grades 6-8) will develop an understanding of playwright's intentions and the influence of theatre practitioners. Pupils will be expected to memorise their scripted pieces, with grades 1-3 staging two short performances, whilst the higher grades will develop three pieces. Each exam will also entail a discussion with the examiner on their knowledge of the dramatic texts performed, developing in depth as pupils progress through their grades.

Devising

Pupils will create their own pieces from scratch when working on the Devising syllabus, picking from a list of themes as a stimulus for writing their own script. The higher grades allow further freedom, as pupils choose stimuli which engage them personally whilst developing understanding of dramatic structure, staging, mood and style. Pupils working towards grades 1-3 will devise one short scene, whilst the higher grades require two longer pieces and improvisation of a short scene. As with the Acting exam, pupils will be questioned on their knowledge, discussing their creative process, development of characters and the challenges of devising.

Shakespeare

The Shakespeare exams are focused on exploring the interpretative and technical skills required to perform his plays and sonnets. Pupils will explore William Shakespeare's style, form and staple characters, realising the demands of the text whilst developing knowledge of the Elizabethan Theatre. Grades 1-3 require study and performance of one short scene from memory, whilst grades 4-5 require performance of two scenes, each from a different play by Shakespeare. Grades 6-8 see pupils take ownership of their examination pieces, performing two scenes from two different plays, in addition to the performance of a sonnet, demonstrating mature understanding of the text and language. Here the examiner will focus the questions on the style and context of Shakespeare's writing, considering structure and content closely.

For a full breakdown of what to expect when working towards a graded LAMDA exam, syllabi can be downloaded directly from the LAMDA website here.

PCertLAM

The LAMDA Certificate in Speech and Drama: Performance Studies (PCertLAM) comprises of a written portfolio and the performance of a four-part recital, based upon a pupil-chosen theme. Students are presented the opportunity to demonstrate their technical skills in verse and prose recitation and will perform a scene from a play of their own choosing. In addition to compiling a portfolio of the preparation process and reciting four pieces from memory, pupils are required to sight-read a text on the examination day and will be asked questions on the rationale of the theme and pieces chosen. Pupils should have completed either Grade 8 Acting or Grade 8 Verse and Prose prior to commencing study; due to the demands of the qualification, this course is only open to Sixth Form pupils.

The PCertLAM syllabi can be downloaded directly from the LAMDA website here (<https://www.lamda.ac.uk/lamda-exams/our-exams/further-exams/pcertlam>)

Commitments and Expectations

Pupils will be expected to complete short prep tasks outside of the timetabled lessons, such as reading a play studied or completing research around a devising stimulus. In addition, there will be opportunities to participate in our termly Showcase, allowing the whole school community to celebrate pupils' achievements and dedication. If a pupil is unable to attend their timetabled lesson, an email must be sent to their teacher 24 hours prior to the lesson – the teacher will make every effort to re-schedule a lesson if a notice of absence has been provided.

Lesson Fees

(This will be revised annually)

Individual lesson £19
Duologue lesson £13 per pupil

Examination Fees

Pupils will have at least one opportunity a year to complete their graded exam, although completing an exam is by no means compulsory. Pupils do not need to have passed one grade in order to sit the next – they can join at any stage.

Acting and Devising

	Solo	Duologue (fee per pair)	Combined (fee per pair)
Grade 1	£48	£86	£86
Grade 2	£50	£91	£92
Grade 3	£54	£99	£99
Grade 4	£65	£116	£116
Grade 5	£70	£120	£121
Grade 6	£82	£143	N/A
Grade 7	£89	£157	N/A
Grade 8	£102	£179	N/A

Shakespeare

	Solo	Duologue (fee per pair)
Grades 1-3	£54	N/A
Grades 4-5	£70	£120
Grades 6-8	£102	£179

PCertLam

Unit 1 Theory £108
Unit 2 Recital £108

Registration

The registration form can be found on the school's website [here](#).

For any further queries, please contact

Mrs Elise Chambers

Head of Speech and Drama