

Why try Drama?

Drama celebrates creativity, analysis and expression, working in practical, dynamic and fun sessions. Underpinned by established theatrical techniques, it shapes the creative voice of the student as performer, director or designer. Drama develops skills necessary for stage, film and even for life: communication, collaboration, creativity and confidence.



Who can do it?

Students can opt to study Drama at GCSE and A-Level. Both courses encourage students to create, perform and understand contemporary theatre, with an emphasis on practical, collaborative and creative work. This is informed by a analytical understanding of influential theatre practitioners, supported by workshops with visiting professional companies. Performance and design pathways are offered on both courses.

The Drama co-curricular programme offers training, performance, devising and technical theatre projects for students of all abilities and experience. Curated by our full time Director in Residence, the programme aims to entertain, inform and challenge through an annual schedule of relevant, engaging and high quality theatre under the umbrella of the Meyer Theatre Company.

- The Meyer Theatre Company produces at least two full scale productions each year, plus a Shakespeare Festival and small cast projects.

- All members of the company attend a weekly training session to develop their performance, ensemble and creative skills.

- BA16+ is a training pathway for students looking to study and train in Drama at a high level, including NYT, vocational and university courses. Theatre, vocational and university courses.



Looking forward to 2022-23

- The first Millfield Shakespeare Festival takes place in early November. Hosted in the Meyer Theatre, work from visiting schools is presented alongside senior and prep school productions. Featuring specialist workshops and two evening performances, the festival aims to celebrate the creative and performance opportunities of Shakespeare's texts.

- Our first major production is Jessica Swale's *Blue Stockings*, a modern take on the first female students to study at Cambridge University. Featuring a large cast of senior students, expect a moving and comic exploration of this historical turning point.

- A-Level students and staff are working on a three-month project with Complicite Theatre Company. In January, Year 9 students will spend the day working with Scratchworks Theatre Company on devising theatre techniques.

- In the summer term, our junior production will once again transform the Meyer Theatre. Full details will be announced in January – expect a dynamic, engaging and highly theatrical performance showcasing the talents of our Year 9 & 10 students.

- Alongside regular Tea and Drama events, we are sharing the stage with music and dance students in a series of Tea and Performing Arts performances, aiming to highlight the collaborative and creative potential of the Arts at Millfield.



On Stage

- The 400 seat, fully equipped Meyer Theatre is the centre of the Drama department, hosting over 20 theatrical productions each year.
- Students in Year 9 and 10 perform in a full-scale theatre production each Summer, with recent productions including a adaptations of Angela Carter's *Nights at the Circus* and Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- Year 11 and Sixth Form productions range from the bi-annual senior play, a large scale play with full production values to smaller ensemble pieces and monologue extracts.
- Every two years we stage a full-scale musical theatre production in collaboration with the Music Department, and there are regular opportunities to collaborate with dance in physical theatre and movement-based projects.
- Regular Tea and Drama events offer informal opportunities for students to share work, and there are performance projects running throughout the year in devised theatre, film-making and Shakespeare.