

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 emphasis on practical, collaborative and creative work. This is informed by an 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, playwriting and technical theatre projects for students of all abilities and experience. Curated by our full time Director in Residence, the programme aims to 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 range of medium and small cast projects to suit the student interests and abilities.

Speech and drama lessons are offered in acting, public speaking, prose and devised theatre. These sessions take place in our studio on an individual, paired or group basis, delivered by our specialist tutors. All members of the company can 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 auditions for National Youth Theatre and in-depth performance projects. The post-18 pathway sessions support Sixth Form students applying and auditioning for vocation and university courses.



Highlights from 2023-24

- Productions of *Legally Blonde The Musical* and *A Monster Calls* as well as a full length devised piece created in collaboration with a professional theatre company and a summer festival exploring Greek Theatre.

- Millfield drama hosted professional workshops with Gecko Theatre, Babel and Scratchworks Theatre, who also performed their successful production of *Hags* as part of their national tour.



Looking forward to 2024-25

- Planned productions are *Brainstorm* - a Year 9 and 10 production, a unique theatrical investigation into how teenagers' brains work, and the GCSE Devised Theatre Performance.
- In the Devised Theatre Performance, Year 11 students will share their own theatre pieces, inspired by current theatre practice and ideas. Each piece will present the voices of our students in a highly theatrical and impactful performance.



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.
- Year 11 and Sixth Form productions range from the annual senior play, a large scale play with full production values, to smaller ensemble pieces and monologue extracts.
- Students also have the opportunity to take on directorial roles, most recently on a series of short plays by Anton Chekov.
- 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 as well as the high-profile pieces created for the annual Summer Celebration event.
- Regular Tea and Drama events offer informal opportunities for students to share work, and performance projects run throughout the year in devised theatre, film-making and playwriting.