

# Drama

*“We must all do theatre, to find out who we are and who we could become.”  
Augusto Boal*

*The St Thomas More Drama department aims to provide a safe and inclusive environment where students are inspired to work both together and independently to use a range of dramatic forms to express ideas and feelings. Students work with a range of stimuli including script to develop subject specific skills such as performing, evaluating and creating as well as developing core transferable skills such as empathy, tact, teamwork and confidence.*






*Drama encourages students to explore:*

- *the ability to communicate effectively through the language of space, movement and words*
- *imagination, characterisation, devising and performing skills*
- *confidence in the pupils’ own abilities, particularly in the areas of independent working, verbal and non verbal communication and team work*
- *evaluating skills of the pupils’ own work and the work of others*

*The Drama Department encourages students to have a love of the arts and an understanding of how they shape, influence and articulate all our lives.*

## Key Stage 4 & 5

The Drama Department curriculum has been built around the following key concepts that students need to grasp:

<b>Drama Key Concepts</b>				
<b>Context</b>	<b>Aesthetic</b>	<b>Message</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Actor/Audience Relationship</b>
				
<p>Playwrights and theatre makers are influenced by the world around them, the social cultural and historical contexts they were creating drama in and the theatrical conventions of the time. When we create</p>	<p>Audiences go to see drama, the visual impact of the performance is influenced by design. We can communicate story, relationships and message through the design elements used in a performance. These can include set,</p>	<p>Drama offers us perspectives on the human experiences, drama can have social, political and religious teachings. Audience’s can be instructed, educated, challenged, entertained and moved by the performances they see. Participating in the creation of</p>	<p>The same story can be told many ways, the same character can be viewed from multiple perspectives and the themes of a drama communicated in multiple ways. We are able to interpret stories, plays and characters in new ways to create meaning for</p>	<p>Drama relies on the relationship between performer and audience member, this division can be manipulated to break the fourth wall between performer and audience. Styles of drama vary in the desired actor/audience relationship. We can</p>

drama now we create within the context of our own experiences.	costume, lighting, makeup, puppetry and props design.	drama provides social development.	an audience.	experience drama and evaluate its success as an audience member.
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The table below shows you the topics pupils will study throughout Key Stage 4:

	<b>Component 1</b>	<b>Component 2</b>	<b>Component 3</b>
<b>Year 10</b>	Roles and Responsibilities in the theatre  Staging Configurations  Live Theatre Evaluation  "Blood Brothers" by Willy Russell	Devising - Improvisation and Stimulus Development  Designing Drama - set, lighting, sound, props and costume	Acting - Monologue Performances  Script work and subtext
<b>Year 11</b>	"Blood Brothers" by Willy Russell	Devising - Creating an original piece of drama based on a stimulus	Acting - External Exam  Students will work on two extracts from a published script to perform for an external examiner

## Key Stage 5 - Drama and Theatre

The drama curriculum continues to develop on a foundation of our three core principles : **EXPLORE, EXPERIMENT** and **PLAY**.

The A-Level Drama and Theatre course is designed to provide a balance across a range of learning activities. This specification combines the activities of exploring plays, creating theatre, the performing of plays, the analysis of theatre and the critical evaluation of all of these elements. Students develop a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, highly toned analytical and creative skills and an ability to communicate effectively with others.

Students at St Thomas More study AQA A-Level Drama from Year 12 as part of their optional subjects. The course is taught over two years and the specification can be found here: [Drama | A-level | Drama and Theatre](#)

<b>Context</b>	<b>Aesthetic</b>	<b>Message</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Actor/Audience Relationship</b>
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Playwrights and theatre makers are influenced by the world around them, the social cultural and historical	Audiences go to see drama, the visual impact of the performance is influenced by design. We can communicate	Drama offers us perspectives on the human experiences, drama can have social, political and religious teachings.	The same story can be told many Ways, the same character can be viewed from multiple perspectives and the themes of a	Drama relies on the relationship between performer and audience member, this division can be manipulated to break
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contexts they were creating drama in and the theatrical conventions of the time. When we create drama now we create within the context of our own experiences.	story, relationships and message through the design elements used in a performance.	Audiences can be instructed, educated, challenged, entertained and moved by the performances they see. Participating in the creation of drama provides social development.	drama communicated in multiple ways. We are able to interpret stories, plays and characters in new ways to create meaning for an audience.	the fourth wall between performer and audience. Styles of drama vary in the desired actor/audience relationship. We can experience drama and evaluate its success as an audience member.
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The table below shows you the topics pupils will study throughout Key Stage 5:

	<b>Component 1</b>	<b>Component 2</b>	<b>Component 3</b>
<b>Year 12</b>	Naturalism - Henrik Ibsen and Stanislavski  Poetic Drama - "Yerma" by Federico Garcia Lorca  Greek Tragedy - "Medea" by Euripides	Devising Theatre - exploration of stimulus and practitioners	Brechtian Theatre - "The Caucasian Chalk Circle"  Machinal by Sophie Treadwell
<b>Year 13</b>	Live Theatre Evaluation  Set Texts 1 & 2 ("Hedda Gabler" and "Yerma")	Performance of Devised Drama  Working Notebook development	Acting - External Exam  Students will work on one extract from a published script to perform for an external examiner