



Drama

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9)

Unit	Topic	What students learn	Term
Year 7			
Unit 1	Introduction to Drama: Silent Movies	Working together in the studio; facial expression, body language, gesture and mime; silent movie conventions, stock characters, slapstick and comic timing; assessed performance.	Autumn 1
Unit 2	Melodrama	The melodrama genre, voice and stock characters, asides and direct address; writing and staging a melodramatic script; assessed performance.	Autumn 2
Unit 3	Storytelling (Titanic)	Building fiction from the facts of the Titanic; character, status and class; narration, split stage, hot-seating and slow motion; linear, flashback and cyclical structures; assessed performance.	Spring 1
Unit 4	Introduction to Shakespeare	Shakespeare's stories and themes; the witches in Macbeth, physical theatre in The Tempest, and conflict, status and comedy; assessed modern Shakespeare performance.	Spring 2
Unit 5	Physical Theatre	Ensemble, unison and canon; transforming chairs and objects; movement motifs and telling a story through movement; assessed performance.	Summer 1
Unit 6	Theatre Design	The role of a theatre designer; costume, set design and model boxes; lighting and sound concepts; assessed design pitch.	Summer 2
Year 8			
Unit 1	Script Introduction: Cloud Busting	Stage positions, directions, blocking and proxemics; characterisation, motivation and subtext; ensemble and direct address; rehearsal strategies, performance and a character monologue.	Autumn 1
Unit 2	Gothic Horror	Building suspense and tension; setting, mood and soundscape; Gothic horror conventions; devising and refining a Gothic performance with peer feedback.	Autumn 2
Unit 3	Technical Theatre	Production roles; lighting, sound and Foley; make-up and costume; a production concept challenge and technical rehearsal; assessed presentation.	Spring 1
Unit 4	A Midsummer Night's Dream	Status and conflict between Hermia and Egeus; Puck and the fairies, including costume design; the lovers, blocking and Shakespeare's language; performing, directing and analysis.	Spring 2
Unit 5	Historical Drama and Verbatim Devising	Theatre from real events and testimony; narration, statistics and ensemble; selecting, editing and structuring material into documentary theatre; assessed performance.	Summer 1

Unit	Topic	What students learn	Term
Unit 6	The World Falls Apart: Choose Your Own Adventure	Exposition, character and subtext; building conflict to a climax and resolution; peer feedback, final performance and evaluation.	Summer 2
Year 9			
Unit 1	Practitioner Workshops: Frantic Assembly, Complicité, Gyre & Gimble and Greek theatre	What physical theatre can do; Frantic Assembly techniques, partner and group lifts and safe physical risk; devising from movement and from the poem 'Tissue'; assessed performance.	Autumn 1
Unit 2	DNA by Dennis Kelly	Naturalism, status and group hierarchy; subtext and black comedy; Stanislavski's 'magic if' and moral choice; assessed scripted performance.	Autumn 2
Unit 3	Combat and Conflict	Safe stage combat and selling the illusion; building tension before contact; Foley and sound; adapting an action scene from screen to stage; assessed performance.	Spring 1
Unit 4	My Generation: Real Lives, Real Stories	Whose stories get heard; bringing testimony to life; narration, multi-role and symbolism; devising from source material; assessed performance.	Spring 2
Unit 5	Comedy Lab: Can You Make an Audience Laugh?	Status, comic timing and the rule of three; physical comedy and improvisation; parody and satire; creating and performing an original comic piece.	Summer 1
Unit 6	Devising: Hunger Games Production Challenge	Working as a production team to a brief: costume, set, lighting and sound design unified into one concept; assessed production pitch or performance.	Summer 2