**Drama**

The drama department is a well-established facet of the Creative Arts. With two very experienced members of staff, students have the opportunity to develop their understanding of drama through thought provoking texts, practical lessons, and theoretical processes. The drama department leads the way with extra-curricular activities, and this is the main reason why the subject is so popular.

Within KS3 drama, students are given the opportunity to explore a wide range of drama styles, from *Shakespearean* theatre, right through to dramatic *Brecht* masterpieces. Students are taught to explore their creative side, and cover topics such as *Theatre in Education* and puppetry, right through to sensitive themes, including the play *Naughts and Crosses*. Students have their lessons in the drama studio, which is a fully fitted performance space, complete with lighting rigs, set, props and costume. Importantly though, the drama studio is a “safe space”. It is safe for the students to step out of their comfort zone and discover what is below their surface. Our teachers adapt to students of all ages and needs, and so offer some non-performing roles within the drama lesson.

At KS4, students study Edexcel GCSE Drama. Students are trained to develop their performance skills, and theatre craft. Within the course, students cover devising (creating their own drama), monologues and duologues (solo and paired speaking in character) and text and live performance analysis. Straight away, this opens the door to extra-curricular activities, including watching the live performances at theatres, taking part in stage combat workshops, and interacting with visiting dramatists, including teachers of *platform theatre.* We have a loyal following of students, who drive the department from student level.

At KS5, students can continue their drama studies through the CTEC Performing Arts course. The course is centred around stage and theatre performance, but students do have the opportunity to develop their music, technical, production and entrepreneur skills further. This course is the perfect opportunity for anyone wanting to develop more well-rounded performance. Both in KS4 and KS5, we expect and encourage our older students to engage with the extracurricular programme.

Every year, the Creative Arts Department host the Abbeyfield School Musical, most recently, putting on *Shrek* the musical. All of the students in school, whether they are involved or not, enjoy the buzz created by the musical. Students are offered performing roles, or technical roles, depending on their interests. Many of the students involved are from the school’s drama club, which meets on a Friday afternoon, and has over 40 loyal attendees. Everyone is welcome.

**KS4: Edexcel GCSE Drama**

**KS5: Cambridge Technical in Performing Arts, Level 3**