

A level Drama & Theatre

Why study Drama?

- This course emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding.
- Students will be introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as they explore plays practically, devise and perform scripts and develop their skills as a performer, designer and director.



Why study Drama at Solihull Sixth Form College?

- Students will have the opportunity to meet and work with theatre professionals as well as trainers from universities and drama schools.
- A highly popular and valuable part of the course is the programme of trips we arrange to see a variety of live theatre performances. These trips are compulsory for the written exam (Unit 1) and are likely to take place in the evening.
- Students learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves. They will work independently with others and on their own to create original pieces and to explore existing scripts and the ideas of prescribed practitioners. In so doing they will develop in confidence and as performers, designers and directors.
- Collaboration will be at the heart of their learning with occasional lectures, workshops from theatre professionals and student presentations. All parts of the course are supported by handouts and guides.

Case Study

Among the recent successful students to have taken this course is **Sophie Reynolds**.

She came to the College from Coleshill School to study A levels. She achieved an A* in Drama and As in Maths and Psychology. She is taking a gap year to perform with the Birmingham Repertory Theatre and National Youth Theatre, before applying to university next year.



“The best thing about the College is that, as a student, you are given the opportunity to be an independent learner with your own responsibilities as a young adult. The staff here always went above and beyond to help us, taking time out of their breaks and staying after college to offer support. The time invested into my education shows just how much the College cares.”
- student Sophie Reynolds



Course Outline

Unit 1: Drama and Theatre

The study of two set plays from different genres and periods and evaluation of live theatre.

Unit 2: Creating Original Drama

The performance of a group devised play, exploring the methods of a prescribed practitioner.

Unit 3: Making Theatre

The practical exploration of three extracts, each taken from a different play, the third extract to be performed in the style of a prescribed practitioner.

Assessment

Unit 1: Written exam (3 hours: 3 Questions). Marked by AQA - 40%

Unit 2: Practical Coursework - Working notebook (40 marks), Devised performance (20 marks). Marked by teacher and moderated by AQA – 30%

Unit 3: Practical Coursework – Reflective report on the performance of three extracts (20 marks), Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks). Marked by AQA – 30%

The two practical units require students to work intensively in a group and to take part in independent rehearsals at the end of the College day. Students are also required to write extended reflective reports during the process of working on their practical exams. These will need to be submitted in draft form to the teacher for advice and assessment, to ensure students attain their full potential.

Examining Board – AQA.

Special Entry Requirements

Students need not necessarily have studied Drama to GCSE level, but for those who have, grade 4 or above is required. A real interest and commitment to seeing and taking part in Theatre is essential. In addition, standard A level entry requirements apply - see www.solihullsfsc.ac.uk/courses/entry-requirements.

Prohibited Options

None.

What do our students go on to do?

This course inspires students to become independent thinkers with the skills they need to go on to higher education, whether that is to study a course in drama and theatre or another subject. Students will develop skills essential not just for drama but applicable to a wide range of higher education subjects and the workplace; such as collaborative, analytical and research skills. Students will grow in confidence and maturity as they successfully realise their own ideas, learn to evaluate objectively and develop a sound appreciation of the influences that cultural and social contexts can have on theatrical works. Higher education institutions value and respect the skills this qualification gives students. The AQA specification was developed in collaboration with universities, incorporating the approach they take with drama and theatre undergraduates into the A level qualification, so that students will be really well prepared for the demands of university and beyond.

Cost Implications

Transport costs for theatre trips are subsidised by the College, but students are expected to pay for the cost of tickets and some travel. Students will be watching a range of professional productions and will be working with theatre professionals, but it may not be face to face. There are likely to be between four and six trips during the two year course.

Complementary Subjects or Enrichment Courses

Students are able to build a programme of study which spans a range of varied and complementary A level subjects at the College. Students are particularly encouraged to take part in additional performance enrichment opportunities to enable them to extend their knowledge and understanding of theatre and to polish their skills in readiness for the demands of A level practical exams.

Examination Results

In the past three years, there has been great success for students on this course, including consistently high pass rates. The full breakdown of results is as follows:

Year	Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	A-E%
2018	24	2	4	10	7	1	0	0	100.0%
2019	18	2	3	8	5	0	0	0	100.0%
2020	23	4	5	9	4	1	0	0	100.0%

Contact

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