

AQA A-LEVEL

DRAMA & THEATRE



Summer Homework 2021

What is so good about studying Drama here?

We asked past students this question and they said:

- 'Lessons are active and fun, I really look forward to coming.'
- 'Teachers are really knowledgeable and help you reach high standards.'
- 'It's friendly here, everyone counts.'
- 'You feel supported - teachers give up time to help you after lessons.'
- 'The studio facilities are great and the technician helps you with some really professional lighting and sound effects.'
- 'There is a sense of belonging – like a family atmosphere. You get to know other students in your class fast, as well students from the year above.'
- 'Lots of trips to see - really inspirational shows!'
- 'The written work gets easier because the teachers show you how to make the jump from GCSE.'

What are lessons like?

Most lessons involve the following:

Acting Directing Designing Analysing Reading
Performing Researching Discussing
Writing Watching recorded productions Presenting Power-Points
Evaluating yourself and others

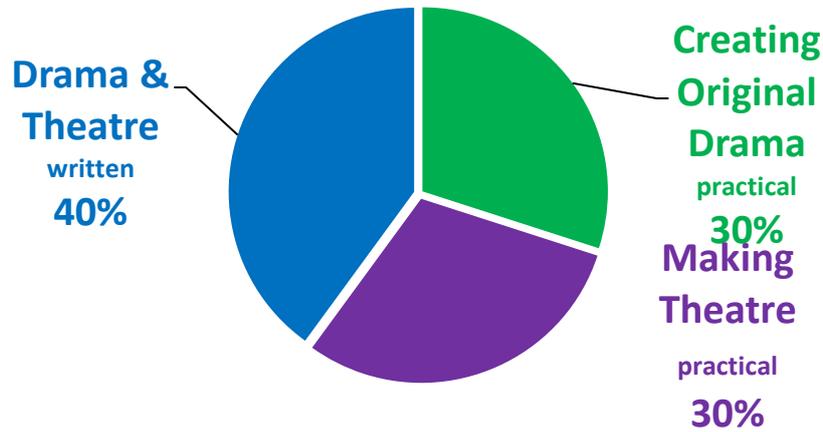
Group work is central to the way we work. It is a very enjoyable way of learning in collaboration with others but carries with it commitment and responsibilities to others, often in the way of rehearsals beyond the college day.

Written and Practical work is integrated. The qualification is intended to prepare you for progression to University in Drama or any other field so the literacy part is important, and we will help you to improve your analytical and written skills.

Theatre Trips are also key to your learning. These are compulsory for the written exam but are also a direct way of absorbing the language of contemporary theatre practice. Our students particularly enjoy the visits although most involve late returns to college.

There are **THREE** units:

- 1: Drama & Theatre** written exam (40%)
- 2: Creating Original Drama** practical Exam (30%)
- 3: Making Theatre** practical coursework (30%)



Unit 1: Drama & Theatre (40%) 3 hour Written Exam

What's assessed?

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of two set plays
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

How?

- Written exam: 3 hours
- 'Open book' – unmarked copies of the set plays to refer to in the exam
- 80 marks, 40% of the A-level

Section A: one question (from a choice of two) on a **classical set play** (25 marks)

Section B: Three compulsory questions (Acting, Directing & Designing) on an extract from a **modern set play** (25 marks)

Section C: one question (from four) on a selected **Live Theatre production** (30 marks)

Unit 2: Creating Original Drama (30%) Practical & Written

What's assessed?

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)
- Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner

How?

- Working notebook (40 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 60 marks in total = 30% of A-level
- Marked by the Teacher and moderated by AQA.

Unit 3: Making Theatre (30%) Practical & Written

What's assessed?

- Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3) from different plays
- Methods of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3
- Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece

- Students contribute as performer, designer or director
- A reflective report which analyses and evaluates the theatrical interpretation of all three extracts

How?

- Examined by the AQA.
- Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks) and a Reflective report (20 marks)
- The three plays chosen must each have been professionally commissioned or professionally produced, be different plays from those set plays studied by the student for Component 1 and not be similar to each other in terms of their social, cultural and historical context.

The Set Plays

Pre-twentieth Century:

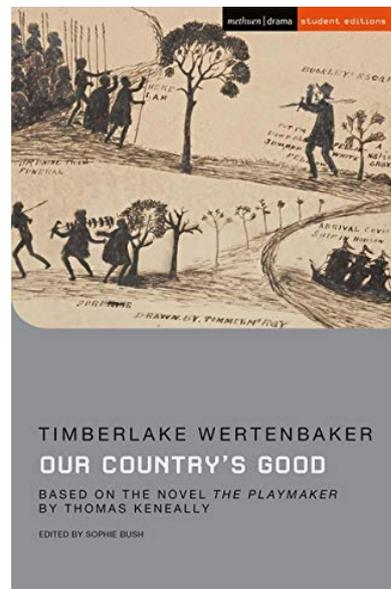
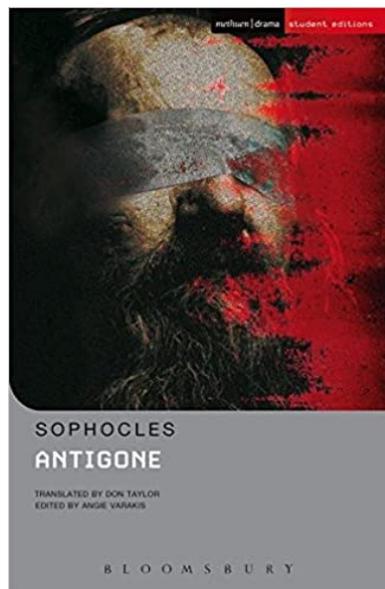
Antigone by Sophocles – Greek Tragedy

(Translated by Don Taylor ISBN: 0413776042)

Modern:

Our Country's Good by Timberlake Wertenbaker – Historicisation
(ISBN 1350097888)

Please note that you will need to buy these copies over the summer so you have them to work with at the very start of the course. It is important that you buy the specific student editions above.



SUMMER HOLIDAY TASKS

1. Purchase the set texts and read both plays in advance of our first lesson in September.
2. As a role of a director, create a detailed plan of how you would stage the first scene in Antigone (page 59-64). You need to consider all aspects of production (acting, set design, costume, sound and lighting). Be creative in how you present your work and include both text and images.

To help you with this task, you may wish to consider the following:

- Watch past productions online
- Research the original staging of the production
- Consider your 'overall vision' for your production. What key themes, ideas, and messages do you wish to communicate? How can this be demonstrated in your performance?
- Include quotations from the script
- Conduct additional research into the social/cultural/historical context of the play

Checklist

- ✓ Have you included drama terminology in your work? (tone, volume, gesture etc.)
 - ✓ Have you included key quotations from this scene?
 - ✓ Have you considered images, photos, sketches in your work to showcase your design ideas?
 - ✓ Have you justified your directorial choices? Have you explained 'WHY' you have chosen to stage this scene in a particular way?
 - ✓ Have you considered the presentation of your work?
3. Plan a Drama game or warm up to share with the class. This can be one that you have devised yourself or one you have previously participated in. Think creatively and outside the box! There are plenty of resources online to support you if you are new to studying Drama or wish to conduct some additional research. Please arrive to the first lesson with your practical activity ready to share with the group.