

Performing Arts - Drama

The purpose of the drama curriculum at Cornwallis Academy is to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills, working to professional industry standards. Lessons ensure that students can explore a variety of topics, styles, issues, and characters working cooperatively with their peers. Students are encouraged to use resilience during their rehearsal time, as well as teamwork and problem-solving skills, allowing them to devise their own theatre or bring scripted plays to life. Students will develop opinions on various topics using spoken language skills and build the confidence and creativity to express these using drama and performance. Students learn to express themselves creatively and imaginatively and to communicate with others confidently and effectively.

Students have lots of opportunities to perform in-house such as the School Musical, our Performance Extravaganza, and several dance shows. There are also opportunities to perform outside of school at festivals and competitions.

Year 8 Drama

Pupils study drama on rotation for two terms during the academic year.

	ROTATION 1	ROTATION 2	ROTATION 3
TERM 1 & 4	DRAMA	PRODUCTION	COMPUTING
TERM 2 & 5	PRODUCTION	COMPUTING	DRAMA
TERM 3 & 6	COMPUTING	DRAMA	PRODUCTION

In the first term, students will study Physical Theatre. In the second term, students will study Murder Mystery.

Physical Theatre

What are the aims and objectives of this term?	In this unit learners will gain an understanding of the skills and techniques of physical theatre, its key practitioners and styles and their role in contemporary performing arts. All live theatre is physical in some way but theatre which accentuates image, and the physicality of the performer can create a vibrant and exciting style. While physical theatre be seen as an art form, the skills developed through its study can enhance and enrich the skills and range of all performers. The main aim of drama in Key Stage 3 is to guide students in to becoming well rounded, confident young people who can communicate effectively with confidence, demonstrating respect, empathy and consideration of themselves and others.
What previous knowledge is required?	Knowledge and practical skills learnt during Year 7 will support the learning that will take place during Year 8.
How will this term's content help with future learning?	The Year 8 Drama curriculum will support students in developing acting and performance skills. These skills will enable students to become more confident with physical movement, ready to learn further genres throughout Year 9.

Murder Mystery

What are the aims and objectives of this term?	The Murder Mystery unit gives students the opportunity to explore the concept of creating characters and story line. Students will learn how to create mystery through misdirection. The main aim of drama in Key Stage 3 is to guide students in to becoming well rounded, confident young people who can communicate effectively with confidence, demonstrating respect, empathy and consideration of themselves and others.
What previous knowledge is required?	Knowledge and practical skills learnt during Year 7 will support the learning that will take place during Year 8.

How will this term's content help with future learning?	The Year 8 Drama curriculum will support students in developing acting and performance skills. These skills will enable students to become more confident with physical movement, ready to learn further genres throughout Year 9.
Other	
Resources	Watching any videos of dramatizations will allow students to watch professional performers. Professional performances will allow students the opportunity to observe good technique and give them the opportunity to reflect on how further improvements to their skill set can be made. The following BBC Teach resources are helpful for developing characters and ideas: Doctor Who – creating a character: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zd6sr82/resources/1 Physical skills for interpreting a character: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zhtgscw/revision/1 Vocal interpretation of a character: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zbbj47h/revision/1 Developing an idea: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zkdp2sg/revision/1 Responding to a stimulus: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zhpcy9q/revision/1
Links to the national curriculum/specification	Drama within the National Curriculum is one of the twelve strands of learning in the literacy curriculum. It helps children think about the 'who, why, where, and when' elements of stories, events, and everyday experiences. Drama helps children develop a creative perspective on life and gives them freedom of expression. The English Programme stipulates students need: • 'Improvising, rehearsing and performing play scripts and poetry in order to generate language and discuss language use and meaning, using role, intonation, tone, volume, mood, silence, stillness and action to add impact.' https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/840002/Secondary_national_curriculum_corrected_PDF.pdf
Assessments	Students are assessed continually by their teacher in the areas of performance, choreography and evaluating their own work and that of others. Their effort and contribution will also be assessed. An assessment point will be carried out once a term. Students receive a summative grade which summarises the level that they are working at. This level will be a numerical grade (9-1) which links directly to the criteria for the BTEC Drama qualification.