

# Albion Academy Drama Curriculum Overview

## Intent

The Albion Academy KS3 Drama curriculum aims to develop pupils' physical, mental, and social learning through a range of learning scopes and approaches. The curriculum allows to progressively improve pupils' knowledge and skills within the theatre world, whilst building life skills and qualities including teamwork, leadership, resilience, creativity, problem solving and organisation.

The curriculum introduces students to a range of different styles, genres and plays within the drama world, whilst continuously developing their drama skills and techniques. The curriculum uses a mastery approach, whereby students will review, revisit and practice content throughout different schemes across different terms so that the knowledge, skills and techniques acquired are secured before progressing and any knowledge gaps are closed.

At KS4, the curriculum continues to develop students' knowledge and skills in the theatre world but with more thorough focus on devising, script work and written elements around production elements and production skills. Mastery is used at KS4 in both practical and theoretical lessons through a range of teaching and learning approaches including recall questioning, quizzing, assessment, practical feedback, warm up activities and practical application of techniques and theories into various contexts.

The Drama curriculum aims to enable all students to experience and develop through its inclusivity where different needs including SEND, EAL and PP are met in different ways through the teaching and learning methods. The drama department also enables all students to experience and develop drama not only within lessons but also outside of the curriculum through a range of co-curricular opportunities. Students can attend KS3 Drama club throughout the year when there is no school production in progress. Students are welcomed to attend and audition the whole school productions whether it be a musical, play or concert. The drama department believes that all students should be given opportunities to see live theatre. Regular rewards and year group trips are organised to enable this to happen. In addition, we have close links with The Lowry Theatre and have been/are a part of their educational projects including Stage Directions and Speak Up. These programmes provide pupils with opportunities to work with professionals, visit theatres and perform in front of wider audiences.

### **Here we explore these principles in the context of the Drama curriculum:**

- **Entitlement:** The Drama curriculum allows pupils to develop the confidence to excel in a broad range of drama skills, styles, genres and plays. It actively seeks to overcome any barriers to participation which young people may face because of their race, gender identity or any aspect of SEND.
- **Coherence:** The Drama curriculum is sequenced so that skills, techniques and knowledge are mastered and revisited throughout the KS3 and KS4 curriculum. The Drama curriculum makes meaningful connections with other subjects including English, where we study the same text 'An Inspector Calls' at GCSE level. In this area, we make links regarding the teaching of contextual factors of the play and the written exam structures.

- **Mastery:** Through the curriculum pupils become skilled with drama skills and techniques, which are developed on in each scheme and year group. These skills will develop year on year and will transfer into their academic life and endure into adulthood.
- **Adaptability:** The curriculum is distinctive to our school and pupils as schemes have been selected and sequenced to suit the needs and interests of our students, as well as the social community we are based in. For example, we choose to explore gang culture in Year 8 due to this being an important and relevant community issue in Salford. We also study Soap Opera and use Hollyoaks as modelled examples of teenage social issues that our own students may experience. Coronation Street is another example we use due to the locality of where it is filmed which highlights opportunities for our students and their future.
- **Representation:** The drama curriculum is diverse and caters to all students from different backgrounds due to the wide range of topics, genres and plays we study. Students can feel that they relate to some of these topics as well as learn and develop new skills and qualities about themselves through others. Our curriculum takes pupils beyond their immediate experience through the diverse range of extra opportunities we offer, including our co-curricular clubs, theatre trips and links with professional theatre projects including The Lowry Theatre.
- **Education with character:** The Drama curriculum seeks to develop all aspects of character and develop well rounded individuals who are prepared for any job as we build their life skills including teamwork, leadership, resilience, creativity, problem solving and organisation. This is achieved through both our KS3 and KS4 taught curriculum where students work in groups, lead each other, voice their thoughts and opinions and collate creative ideas towards their work each lesson. It is also achieved through the range of co-curricular opportunities we provide where students meet others, build confidence and challenge themselves.

## Progression in the Drama Curriculum Primary to Secondary

Drama is taught on a basic and reduced level at primary school, therefore, the majority of our students arrive to Year 7 Drama with a reduced level of skill, technique and knowledge of drama. The first term of secondary school is spent studying the basic and key skills and techniques of drama that students need to advance throughout KS3 which includes vocal and physical skills, as well as techniques including freeze frames, narration, thought track, dialogue and flashbacks.

### Key Stage 3 to Key stage 4:

Students can choose whether they wish to continue studying Drama at Key Stage 4 level, where they will study the Edexcel GCSE Drama qualification. Students will be taught necessary terminology, skills and styles at key stage 3 to prepare and equip them for knowledge they need to progress in at key stage 4. They will continue to learn new knowledge in the first term of KS4 which they will apply to all three components of the GCSE Edexcel Drama course.

### Key Stage 4 to Key stage 5:

There are a wide range of courses and options surrounding Drama and Performing Arts at Key stage 5 level, from BTEC course to A – level courses. During Key Stage 4, students will delve into a range of different genres, styles and practitioners to equip them with the exploration and study that they will be expected to further study and develop at Key Stage 5. The GCSE course also build on their practical and written skills which will prepare them for written and practical requirement of a BTEC or A -level course in Drama or Performing Arts.

## **Key Stage 5 to University:**

There are a wide range of courses and options surrounding Drama and Performing Arts across different universities. Some lead on to specific professions such as acting, directing or producing; others can lead students down other areas where drama subject knowledge or general skills are required including teaching or business.