Drama and Theatre

A Level Drama and Theatre takes a contemporary approach to the subject and provides opportunities to develop key skills in performance, in the creative and rehearsal process and in analysing and evaluating a range of theatrical texts. This is a dynamic, multi-faceted course that allows you to pursue your own creative interests, and gives you the chance to explore societal issues and consider theatre as a vehicle for social change.

In Year 12, students study 'Practitioners in Practice' where they practically explore texts in the style of key practitioners. Following this, they create an original and innovative piece of theatre utilising the practitioner ideologies and methodologies. The next challenge for our A Level students is 'Exploring and Performing Texts'. In this unit of study, pupils perform an edited version of a complete and substantial play. They develop characterisation and really become skilful in developing scripts from page to stage.

In the 'Analysing Performance' component, students explore two texts and explore the way in which an actor or designer could convey elements, issues, or themes of the texts on stage. The A Level then concludes with a 'Deconstructing Texts for Performance' unit where theatre students study a play from the perspective of of a director and decide how they would stage their own performance with their own contemporary concept and vision.

Student Viewpoint

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies at Belvedere Sixth Form is an amazing course for any budding performer with a passion for performing and learning about the history of theatre. The course includes a devised performance, scripted performance, coursework, and exam content which ranges from Greek Theatre, to Shakespeare, to Brecht.

From this A Level, you will gain an outstanding practical and in-depth knowledge of all thing's theatre. You'll also get to develop your confidence and teamwork skills via the collaborative aspects of the course with lessons that are always interesting, fun, and engaging whilst working alongside your friends who soon become family.

From a student perspective, the Drama class is a safe and nurturing environment for you to have your individual creative expression. The teachers will support you with your work throughout the course leading you to fantastic grades and skills which are transferable to many careers. Drama truly opens many opportunities that we all are hugely grateful for. We highly recommend Drama and Theatre Studies A Level, you won't be disappointed!

Careers

This is an academic A Level in Drama and Theatre which prepares students primarily for higher education. Our students leave the academy with excellent communication and oracy skills. Our students are successful researchers, writers, as well as performers. This is why we have had students go on to study medicine, law, as well as work in the technical departments at the BBC and, of course, go to Drama School, or gain Drama and performance degrees. The Performing Arts is thriving, and pupils studying Drama and Theatre are opening doors to careers in writing, tech', performing, editing, researching, teaching, events management, design journalism, stage management, theatre administration, and many more.

Visit Drama and Theatre on the Belvedere website

Subject Requirements

It is a requirement that students achieve a grade 6 or above in GCSE Drama or English Literature to engage successfully with the subject content of A Level Drama. We also encourage students who may not have had the opportunity to study Drama at GCSE level, or in fact those that didn't choose it as a GCSE option. The recommendation for these students is that they have practical performing experience.

Subject Assessment Overview

Students are examined practically and they justify their acting decisions through research documents and short portfolios that can be written, sketched, or even videoed.
In the written exams, students are marked on their ability to examine and analyse their ability to interpret text, evaluate live theatre and design, and direct theatre.

Click to view the exam board specification