



A level Drama and Theatre Studies

Who is this course for?

Anyone who is interested in combining the activities of exploring plays, creating theatre, the performing of plays, the analysis of theatre and the critical evaluation of all these elements.

This course is useful for students who wish to develop their acting technique; their understanding of devising and the production process; and theatre appreciation through critical appraisal. Fundamentally it is for students who wish to pursue a theatre or performing arts related career.

What are the entry criteria

Students wishing to study the course must have at least five GCSEs at Grade A* - C and a GCSE average of 5.0. GCSE English Language is required, plus GCSE Maths or Science at Grades A* - C.

Good written and oral communication skills are essential.

Previous drama and theatre training would be advantageous.

Background in music, art and design, movement and dance, and history are all helpful.

Entry is by successful completion of an audition and attendance at Wyke Start.

The Drama and Theatre Studies department at Wyke Sixth Form College

The department uses a rehearsal and performance space that has a fully sprung dance floor, mirrors and sound and lighting facilities. In addition, it also has a small studio space with fully sprung dance floor, mirrors and sound and lighting equipment for rehearsal. It has access to the college Library and classroom facilities as well as the state of the art college ICT facilities.

The Drama and Theatre Studies staff are:

- Andy Feetom (Theatre manager) teaches AS.
- Chris Gruca (Head of Performing Arts) teaches A2.

Exam Board

Edexcel

Course Details

Unit One – Exploration of Drama and Theatre

The student is required to study the content of two contrasting play texts and produce a written portfolio of 3000 words based on their practical exploration of the texts. In addition, students are required to experience a live theatre production and submit a 1000 word evaluation. This is 40% of the AS course. It is internally assessed and externally moderated and takes place in Term One.

Unit Two – Theatre Text in Performance

Section A requires the student to independently study a different play text to those in Unit One; rehearse and perform a monologue or duologue; and submit a 500 word performance concept. This takes place in Term Two. Section B requires the student to contribute to a performance of a play. This takes place in Term Three. This is 60% of the AS course and is externally assessed.

Unit Three – Exploration of Dramatic Performance

The student is required to contribute to the research, devising, performance and evaluation of an original piece of theatre and submit a written evaluation of 3500 words. This is 40% of the A2 course and is internally assessed and externally moderated. This takes place in Terms One and Two.

Unit Four – Theatre Text in Context

Sections A and B require the student to explore one set play text from the point of view of a director in both an academic and practical way. Section C requires the student to study the history of theatre and see a live production of a play from a set historical period. The play seen must be evaluated and a comparison made with the original staging conditions. This is 60% of the A2 course and is externally examined. It takes the form of a two and one half hour written exam. This takes place in Term Three.

How the course is delivered

Students have four lessons a week that combine practical classes with academic theoretical lessons. Extracurricular rehearsal time is required in addition to regularly timetabled lessons.

Departmental Enrichment

Students must attend professional theatre performances and are required to perform at public events. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in the production that tours to Germany as part of the Barntrup Exchange; complete LAMDA acting exams; gain experience operating sound and lighting equipment; participate in workshops with professional theatre companies; and participate in the Wyke College Youth Dance Company.

Student success

Former student, Katie Moore from South Hunsley School, was named as one of the “Top Ten” in the country for her A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies grade. She took a gap year and auditioned for drama schools, winning a place at Bristol Old Vic. Since completing her professional training she has performed in Salad Days in London; toured as Laura in The Glass Menagerie; and returns to the West End for the Christmas season in Swallows and Amazons. In addition, she has recently appeared in an episode of Merlin on television for BBC One.



What does this course lead to

Students may progress to Drama and Theatre Studies or Performing Arts related university courses or audition for professional vocational training. Past students have entered the professions of theatre; education; community arts; arts management; events management; and other related careers.

What can I do now that would help prepare me for this course?

Attend as many theatrical performances as possible in any genre.

Gain as much performance experience as possible in a range of genre.

Read articles in *The Stage* and *Television Today*. In addition, read reviews of theatre performances in the national newspapers.

Read scripts of plays from a range of historical periods and genres.