

Curriculum Summary Document

Year 8 – Drama

Building Character, Genre and Devising Skills

Module/Unit of Learning	Taught During	What will students learn?	How does this help to build a broad and strong foundation?	Links to other Subjects
Page to Stage – Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time	September – December	<p>Students study the text to explore how performers communicate Christopher’s perspective through physicality, gesture and stylised movement. They develop skills in proxemics, levels, transitions, and ensemble coordination.</p> <p>Students analyse how staging choices support narrative, theme and characterisation, and they apply these techniques to short performance extracts. They refine rehearsal discipline, giving and receiving focused feedback linked to performance intention.</p>	<p>This unit deepens understanding of how text is translated into performance.</p> <p>It strengthens students’ ability to justify choices, use terminology precisely, and make sustained links between form, meaning and audience impact.</p>	<p>Oracy: developing clear verbal justification of performance choices</p> <p>English: interpreting character and theme</p>
Appreciation – Melodrama	January – March	<p>Students learn the conventions of Melodrama, including stock characters, exaggerated movement, gesture, facial expression and heightened vocal delivery. They study examples from Murder Mystery and Sweeney Todd to understand narrative structure and dramatic effect.</p> <p>Students experiment with staging devices such as asides, tableau, chases and exaggerated pacing, developing confidence in expressive technique and control. They evaluate how genre shapes performance choices and audience expectations.</p>	<p>This unit builds students’ stylistic awareness and strengthens control of expressive skills.</p> <p>It supports progression by developing adaptability, genre recognition and the ability to apply conventions deliberately.</p>	<p>Oracy: using expressive vocal skills and genre-focused discussion</p> <p>English: analysing character archetypes</p>
Devising – Understanding Brecht	April – July	<p>Students explore Brecht’s techniques, including direct address, placards, gestus, narration and episodic structure. They learn how Brecht used theatre to provoke thought and communicate social messages.</p> <p>Working from stimuli, students generate ideas, structure material and apply Brechtian devices purposefully. They rehearse and refine their work, explaining creative decisions and evaluating how effectively messages are communicated.</p>	<p>This unit introduces major devising principles that are revisited in Year 9.</p> <p>It strengthens independence, creativity and control of style-specific techniques while developing conceptual understanding of theatre as commentary.</p>	<p>Oracy: explaining creative intentions through structured discussion</p> <p>PSHE: exploring social and moral issues</p>