



Edition 1
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YEAR 8 DRAMA Curriculum Newsletter



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Curriculum Intent

At Wickersley Partnership Trust we aim to ensure our Drama curriculum is designed to sequence learning and embed the key skills and knowledge that are required for our students to become confident, creative and insightful. Students are encouraged to be not only independent but also collaborative and cooperative learners.

We teach a wide range of acting and technical design skills that fosters an enthusiastic appreciation of the theatrical form and a sense of enjoyment and fascination for stories and characters, their messages and themes. Through Drama, our students explore a range of social issues and cultural influences. The opportunities that we offer beyond the drama studio aim to provide unforgettable experiences and a vital contribution to school life.

Year 8 Curriculum

The topics we cover in Year 8 are:

8.1 Thematic Exploration Unit: The Power of Persuasion

Students develop their oracy skills as they learn how to be confident and effective speakers. They discover different ways to present with fluency and expression. This unit has links to the work on rhetoric in English lessons on George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

8.2 Performance Poetry

Students investigate the importance of the spoken word and how it can influence their perception of poetry. Students learn how techniques used to enhance the performance of poetry, such as ensemble, intonation, tone, tempo, and volume, can be employed effectively to develop meaning for the listener.

8.3 Play Text Study: Romeo and Juliet

Students explore Shakespeare's language and use creative skills to stage the play's prologue. They consider the theme of identity in the play and explore alternative stagings of key Montague and Capulet conflict scenes. Students interpret the playwright's ideas about generational clash and the role of women and girls in Elizabethan times through their practical work on the relationship between Juliet and Lord Capulet. Students develop their characterization skills using their knowledge of principal characters.

8.4 Play Text Study: Blood Brothers

Students are introduced to the theme of 'rich vs poor', laying foundations for their study of *A Christmas Carol* in Y9 English. They learn characterisation skills through their exploration of ideas such as social background, superstition and the nature vs nurture debate. In staging scripted extracts, students must consider narration, mood and atmosphere, tension and character dynamics.

Assessment Points

In all Y8 Drama study units, students are taught to speak confidently and effectively through improvising, rehearsing and performing play scripts in order to generate language and discuss language use and meaning, using role, intonation, tone, volume, mood, silence, stillness and action to add impact. (English Programmes of Study: Key Stage 3 National Curriculum in England)

Immerse Yourself

BBC Bitesize Spoken Word Poetry

- ✓ Develop Skills
- ✓ Educational Video
- ✓ Drama Revision at Home

BBC Bitesize Drama

- ✓ Get Revising Quicker!
- ✓ Videos and Links
- ✓ Study Support and Revision

Students can use KS3 BBC Bitesize, along with a range of revision videos

If students are struggling with topics in lessons or want to enhance their learning in the classroom then these resources are ideal for covering content at home.

Test Your Knowledge with Quizlet...

Quizlet's Y8 Drama flashcards are a fantastic way to memorise relevant Drama knowledge to help you with your studies. Click on the icon below to start!



Praise and Reward

Our rewards system can be broadly split into four categories: classroom level, subject level, school level and privilege rewards. We'll focus on classroom and subject rewards here - for more information about our rewards schemes, please see our website.

CLASSROOM LEVEL REWARDS

Awarded for: working hard, taking risks and rising to a challenge, making mistakes and learning from them, helping others, and taking pride in the school community.

Rewarded by: praise postcards, positive phone calls to parents/carers, positive text messages home, and lesson-based prizes.

SUBJECT LEVEL REWARDS

Reward scheme: Star of the Week, curriculum awards (Subject/School Way, participation, working with pride, embracing the whole curriculum), high flyer, extra mile, most improved.

Rewarded by: names displayed on reward boards, certificates, social media posts.

Broadening Horizons

Our intent is that all students have a full understanding of how to develop themselves as well rounded citizens, maintain healthy relationships and understand how to keep themselves safe both online and in their day-to-day life.

We want all students to know what options are open to them in the future and understand the routes they have in order to progress on their life journey.

Our vision is that every student across each year group has the opportunity to see at least one live performance per year. These exciting opportunities are currently being organised!



Shakespeare's Globe - Romeo & Juliet

Two households...

Adam Gillen (Mercutio) speaks the famous Prologue from the 2021 production of Romeo & Juliet at the Globe Theatre. Click on the logo to watch!

Sheffield People's Theatre

Sheffield People's Theatre is an intergenerational theatre company for anyone aged 12+ with a shared passion for creating great theatre - both on-stage and behind the scenes. As a participant, you can take on roles that include performing, stage management, directing, musical directing, band members, technical teams and more. Click on the logo to get involved!



Careers

Students have been encouraged to think about careers that are intrinsically linked to the skills taught in Drama lessons, such as performers, stage management, set designer, movement director and how different jobs use different skills. Each element of the careers lesson links to an aspect of the Drama Way and represents the importance of students becoming subject specialists in order to take their place in the wider world.

Click on the logo below to explore a variety career options in Drama!



The Drama Way

Our Subject Way is designed to help students become young subject specialists. The Subject Way has two main purposes: Firstly, to teach students the vital skills they need to achieve their full potential and gain the very best grades they can. Secondly, to teach students how each subject relates to the wider world, incorporating the life skills they will learn.

It is our belief that knowing how what you learn links to the wider world, brings a subject to life and therefore improves overall understanding and engagement.

THE DRAMA WAY

WE COMMUNICATE CLEARLY TO AN AUDIENCE
We are willing to extend our learning beyond the **Drama Studio**

WE ARE MOTIVATED & STAY FOCUSED IN REHEARSALS

WE ARE SUPPORTIVE AUDIENCE MEMBERS

WE PERFORM TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY AND CONTRIBUTE TO GROUP DISCUSSIONS

We regularly use key Drama words in discussion

WE WORK IN IMAGINATIVE AND CREATIVE WAYS

WE ARE CULTURE VULTURES

SUBJECT WAYS

The poster features a circular logo with a mask and the text 'THE DRAMA WAY' and 'THE SUBJECT WAYS'. It lists various skills and attitudes in a stylized, hand-drawn font.

Have your say! ✨

At WPT we're always looking for feedback. If you have any thoughts/opinions on this Curriculum Newsletter, its content or the curriculum in general, please click on the title to fill out a short feedback form.