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YEAR 9 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 9 Curriculum

9.1 Rehearsal Techniques: DNA

Students develop their understanding of plot, structure and character through a number of established rehearsal and explorative techniques. They stage scripted extracts and devise their own practical work. Students also consider the theatrical design elements of set, scenery and stage lighting.

9.2 Performance Skills: Combat and Conflict

Students learn how to effectively create tension and conflict in improvised drama scenes and extracts from the play *Bang Out of Order!* They learn a range of stage combat moves such as punches, slaps, kicks, strangle and stab to equip them with a range of physical techniques for use in their scripted practical work.

9.3 Theatre Design: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

In this unit, students are introduced to a wide range of theatrical design elements. They analyse and evaluate the technical design elements in a professionally live theatre production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and experiment with creating their own work in the areas of lighting, sound, costume and set.

9.4 Staging Types & Character Motivation: *Girls and Dolls*

Students develop their knowledge of the staging process through their study of a contemporary play exploring the Troubles in Northern Ireland in the 1980s. They refine their skills in characterisation, multi-role and narration as they consider the concept of character motivation. Students learn about different theatrical staging types including proscenium arch, traverse, in the round and thrust. They explore each space type practically and learn how to articulate how these impact on the staging of drama texts.

9.5 Practitioner Study: Bertolt Brecht

Students study and explore practically the techniques of the revolutionary German drama practitioner and playwright. They experiment with techniques such as narration, direct address and vocalising scripted stage directions. Students develop their knowledge and practice of ensemble and multirole work. They learn how to incorporate placards, physical theatre and song into their original devised work and interpretations of scripted play extracts.

9.6 Devising Theatre

Pupils devise a piece of theatre in response to a visual stimulus which demonstrates the techniques of the theatre practitioner, Bertolt Brecht. They create and develop ideas to communicate meaning to an audience by researching and developing ideas and amending and refining the work in progress. Pupils also consider design elements in creating their work. The final piece is performed to an audience.

Assessment Points

In all Y9 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

Bertolt Brecht: Crash Course

- ✓ 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:

Bertolt Brecht - A brief video guide into Brecht's idea of using theater as a tool to upset and educate the world about stuff like the struggles of the working class and the problematic aspects of capitalism.

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

Test Your Knowledge with Quizlet...

Quizlet's Y9 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!



The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe - West End

The smash-hit production of C.S. Lewis' classic *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, made its West End debut in 2021 at the Gillian Lynne Theatre, London. The show has been seen and enjoyed by millions of people and has been described as 'a must-see production'. Click on the logo to get a taste of the show!

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 for more information on one of many 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 red and white mask and the text 'THE DRAMA WAY' and 'THE SUBJECT WAYS'. The main text is in red and black, with a large stylized 'D' in the background.

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.