



# Independent Learning Guidance for Parents

Department: Drama

Year Group: 10&11

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## Why is independent learning in Drama important?

In this course it is essential for students to demonstrate an accurate critical understanding of, and reflection upon live, professional theatre as well as their own performance work. Whilst this process is begun in lessons, it must be supported by and completed via independent homework. This allows both for the required stretch and challenge at KS4 and for teacher assessment of independently written extended submissions at key times.

Students are required to spend a minimum of 40 hours preparation, rehearsal and research time in the run up to exam performances alone. This cannot be exclusively accommodated in curriculum contact time. It is therefore a necessity that students assume responsibility for some of this as homework.

It is also important that students are in attendance in at least two trips over the KS4 course if they are to be able to contend with the live performance aspects of the written exam paper. This and participation in extra-curricular rehearsals is considered an essential part of the homework brief for this subject.

## How will independent learning be set?

Students can expect homework to be set in any of the following formats:

- Reviews and attendance of live theatrical experiences (Drama trips)
- Ongoing performance write-ups in Drama journals
- Occasional guided research for lesson discussion and presentation
- Exam-style questions (post controlled assessment)
- Scheduled rehearsal and workshop attendance

## What expectations do staff have of the work being completed?

Total. The work of drama students is largely group based and therefore interlinked. As such it is a condition of entrance to the Key Stage 4 course that students are entirely dedicated to their studies.

The completion of homework tasks i.e. attendance at rehearsals, completion of researched presentation work, the sourcing/building of set, sound design and costume creation for assessment is mandatory. Failure to complete such work has a detrimental impact on other students' attainment and cannot therefore be allowed.

### **What help and support is available?**

Discussions with the subject leader - a reasonable period of notice is always given between the setting of a homework task and deadline for submission (usually one week). During this period there is always time for students to seek help for written tasks. **On this basis, the morning of submission will not be considered an appropriate time for seeking assistance.**

Scheduled rehearsal time (via negotiation) with a teacher in attendance can be arranged to support performance work.

### **What work can be completed in addition to the set tasks?**

All KS4 students can actively research general information about any pending live theatre visit. This could include gathering a play synopsis, set design images, information on the venue, cast, designers and director. Such information can be easily sourced online and through the general media.

Students in Year 11 can extend their understanding of any set text chosen for a moderated performance by researching past productions, themes, character and costume details.