



Nether Stowe School

The Drama Curriculum

Curriculum intent: our aims and values

“Drama doesn’t give rise to anything in us that isn’t already there. It simply stirs our curious consciousness and sparks a fire that illuminates who we have always wanted to be.”

Drama Curriculum Intent Overview:

- To develop confidence, independence and skills of teamwork
- To encourage creativity and problem solving
- To create, perform and respond
- To develop the skills of analysis and evaluation
- To be a foundation for the skills needed for the KS4 Drama programme
- To be accessible for all
- To promote a love of Drama and the Arts
- To ensure that they have all been part of an audience in a theatre production

Our intent is to nurture an enjoyment and understanding of Drama through practical experience and to develop both subject specific and transferrable skills that empower students. We focus on encouraging teamwork, creativity, reflection and communication. We aim to engage students and build confidence in a safe and inclusive environment. The Drama Department aims to develop individuality; to encourage students to think and express themselves with flair and confidence and to encourage tolerance and understanding. Students are given opportunities through practical role-play and written drama activities to experience the world around them and begin to appreciate situations from more than one perspective.

Through drama, we encourage students to question and challenge their perception of the world and develop the soft skills employers seek:

- Confidence & Communication - A command over their vocal and physical skills to allow them to approach a wide range of public speaking with confidence
- Concentration - Working on intricate projects over extended periods of time
- Empathy & sensitivity - Understanding the viewpoints and emotions of a range of characters
- Co-operation & team-work skills - Getting the best out of each other when striving towards a common goal
- Commitment & self-discipline - Encouraged and helped to excel when challenged, developing resilience and grit
- Creativity - An understanding of the benefits of participation in the arts, performance and creativity during their time with us at Nether Stowe and throughout their lives.
- Evaluation & appreciation - An appreciation of the ways in which playwrights achieve their effects and communicate their intentions to an audience and an ability to evaluate their own and others’ work.

Drama should inspire students to develop inquisitive minds and teach them how to explore life through Drama. It should develop their understanding of the function of Drama in civilisation and equip them for life with the necessary skills to become reflective, responsible adults with the ability to make a positive contribution to society.

Studying Drama should be a creative, collaborative and transformative experience. Through Drama we can explore the world around us, understand the ideas and opinions of others, learn how to discuss, resolve, compromise, and empathise. Drama allows us to explore alternatives, to question ideas, to reflect on the past and to seek answers. Through studying Drama students learn to communicate ideas, explore social issues and moral dilemmas, and express their own thoughts and opinions. The practical skills learnt in Drama help students to grow in confidence and command an audience.

Drama also offers opportunities for development in many areas and can support progression to a wide range of subjects and career paths as it develops transferrable skills. These include cognitive skills such as problem solving, decision making and critical thinking; interpersonal skills such as active listening, communication, relationship building, trust, teamwork, intercultural sensitivity, self-presentation, social influence, conflict resolution, negotiation and collaborative problem solving; and intrapersonal skills such as adaptability, working with different personalities, self-management, working autonomously, self-motivation, self-monitoring.

We believe that students should be given the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of Drama activities both in and outside the classroom. Taking part in a production is a valuable and rewarding experience and gives students a sense of achievement. The camaraderie, mutual support and inclusiveness that comes from being in a theatrical team, whether on stage or backstage is positive and builds confidence.

We hope that all our students enjoy Drama and are inspired by the curriculum.

How do we monitor and evaluate the impact of the curriculum

We know our curriculum is working in drama due to the engagement of students within lessons, we see classes where all pupils are engaged and actively working towards a performance or analysis of a performance.

Drama is monitored regularly through moderation of work created by students and also through learning walks to ensure the curriculum and engagement is good.

The retention rate in drama is increasing, this is due to the nature of challenge within our drama curriculum, pupils are striving to learn more and have the appetite to want to know more in KS4.

The impact of our extra-curricular provision can be seen throughout the school. We have a growing number of students who are committed in Involvement to creative arts activities and performances. Regular concerts and an annual show in school give students the opportunity to display their talents. As a department we firmly believe that it is the enjoyment of the students and staff alongside their commitment and enthusiasm to make drama which drives the department's success.