

# SUMMER PREPARATORY WORK

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AS LEVEL DRAMA & THEATRE

Central  
Saint Michael's  
Sixth Form

A UNIVERSITY-STYLE SIXTH FORM

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# Drama

A Level Drama and Theatre (Edexcel)



Summer Tasks 2020

# Welcome to Drama!

This is your 'Bridging the Gap' task for A Level Drama and Theatre Studies. The pack is designed to give you a flavour of what A Level Drama and Theatre Studies is all about and give you the best possible start in September. You will also be set an independent research project. The work in these packs will take a long time, so you can break it up. Don't feel you need to complete it all in one go! You will need to bring your completed work along with you when you start sixth form in September.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on [Vivienne.cottrell@sandwell.ac.uk](mailto:Vivienne.cottrell@sandwell.ac.uk)

## ***What's so good about studying Drama here?***

We asked current students this question and they said:

- *Lessons are active and fun, I really look forward to coming*
- *Teachers are really knowledgeable and help you reach high standards*
- *It's friendly here, everyone counts*
- *Drama is the one lesson where all of us can feel completely comfortable. The bonds with your drama group are stronger than any other lesson"*
- *Trips to see really inspirational shows*

## ***Why Choose Drama A level?***

- *'A' Level Drama is a great choice for developing valuable life skills which will have many applications in higher education and the world of work.*
- *It is accepted by ALL universities for a range of creative courses plus, dependent on your other subjects, degrees in subjects such as Law, philosophy, or Politics*
- *It improves your public speaking skills*
- *You learn the value of teamwork*
- *You gain confidence*
- *You'll know how to work to a deadline - because the play MUST go on.*

## ***What are lessons like?***

**Group work** is central to the way we work. It is a very enjoyable way of learning in collaboration with others but carries with it commitment and responsibilities to others, often in the way of rehearsals beyond the college day.

**Written and Practical work** is integrated. The qualification is intended to prepare you for progression to University in Drama or any other field so the literacy part is important and we will help you to improve your analytical and written skills.

**Theatre Trips** are also key to your learning. These are compulsory for the written exam but are also a direct way of absorbing the language of contemporary theatre practice. Our students particularly enjoy the visits; some will be during the day but others might involve a late finish.

There are **THREE** components for the A Level:

### **Component 1 Devising & Written Coursework (40%)**

- Devising an original performance piece
- Group performance of this piece in the style of a chosen theatre practitioner
- Written portfolio

### **Component 2 Practical Performance (20%)**

- Performance of a Monologue or Duologue
- Group performance of an extract from a play

### **Component 3 Written Exam (40%)**

- Live Theatre Evaluation
- Study of a modern play from point of view of a performer and designer.
- Study of a classic play text in light of a chosen theatre practitioner

**Component 1 Devising (Year 1)** In this section you will practically explore the work of a theatre practitioner and a key extract from a published play. These will be the springboard for you to create, in a small group (3 - 6), a completely new piece of theatre of between 15 - 30 minutes. This will be performed in front of a chosen audience. There is a written portfolio that documents the process of creating the performance and your role.

**Component 2: Text in Performance (Year 2)** In this section you will apply your practical experience from the first year to rehearse an extract from a play with direction from the teacher. You will work in small groups (3-6) and will get the chance to operate like a theatre company and be responsible for all aspects of the show, such as lighting, sound, props, set and costume. You will also need to work more independently; either performing a two - three minute Monologue or a 5 min Duologue with a partner.

### **Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (Years 1 & 2)**

In this section we will go to the theatre a few times in the year and you will respond to a question in a written exam where you will evaluate and analyse one of the performances you saw. You are allowed to take 500 words of notes in with you. In the first year we will practically study a modern play and you will respond to a question where you will be asked how you would perform a role from the play (an extract is given) or how you would design elements of the play. In the second year we will study a second play and consider how you would want to direct it for a modern audience but influenced by an important theatre practitioner.

# Summer Holiday Task

To get you ready for studying Drama at Central Sixth you need to complete the following tasks over the summer holidays. This will form part of your probation period at the start of the academic year.

## TASK ONE: Who are the Practitioners?

The course outline refers to "theatre practitioners". We explore at least two during the course but there are a lot more. Here is a list of some practitioners. Use the internet (e.g. Wikipedia, YouTube and other sources) to research and understand what they thought about theatre and what the theatre they produced was like. Watch at least one clip on each before completing this table (or writing up separately). For each practitioner name a play they were associated with and create a short definition or explanation of their ideas in your own words.

PRACTITIONER	
Frantic Assembly	
Bertolt Brecht	
Constantin Stanislavski	
Complicite	
Kneehigh Theatre	
Steven Berkoff	

## TASK TWO

Part of the course is to learn and perform a 2- 3 minute monologue. If you have not done this before have a look at these examples on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLEYeRGUBHc&feature=youtu.be>

Monologue from The Caucasian Chalk Circle by Bertolt Brecht

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWmzVR2NNBU>

Monologue from "Things I know to be true" by Andrew Bovell over a trailer for the play

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Obob-yCclcA>

This is a stand alone monologue but a great performance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hluOoj9BOYk> (about 1 minute in)

Timothee Chalemet

For your second summer task you need to find, learn and rehearse a ONE minute monologue.

- ✓ You must read the whole play that the speech comes from, questions will be asked about the character and context of the play. You need to know details about who you are, where you are and what you are doing.
- ✓ Learn the lines and decide on movement in the space.
- ✓ Bring a copy of the monologue with you.
- ✓ Decide on what your interpretation of the character will be, how will you use your voice and physicality to portray a person different to yourself?

Write a 350 word rationale as to how you have interpreted your role.

The rationale is a short piece of writing that clearly and concisely outlines what your interpretation of the role is.

Question to consider

- What sort of character are they and why do you think this?
- How will you perform the role?
- How do you intend to use your voice and movement skills to portray the character?  
Give specific examples using key lines of the text.

**All of this needs to be ready to hand in or be performed when you start sixth form in September.**

**Don't be scared of doing this, everyone is in the same boat! I need to see that people are committed to learning lines and are able to stand up in front of an audience. Technique and ability we can work on. It is not an audition as such more a chance for me to see where you are at!**