



Drama and Theatre Studies A Level

AQA



Drama & Theatre Studies A Level

This two year course combines the study of set texts and the response to live theatre. Students will also produce several practical performance pieces, at least one of which will be based on the study of a practitioner.

The assessment is split into three parts:

Component 1

Written Exam (3 hours) (40%)

Students will study two set texts and will respond to live theatre seen during the course.

Component 2

Devised performance (30%)

Students will devise an original performance piece.

A working notebook will also be produced (2400 words maximum).

Component 3

Students will perform three extracts from a published play, one of which will be influenced by a theatre practitioner and will be externally examined (30%).

A reflective report will also be produced (2500 words maximum).

A spotlight is shown in the top left corner, casting a bright beam of light downwards. The background is a gradient of blue and purple, suggesting a stage or performance setting.

What will be expected of you?

An excellent attendance is essential – much of the work is group activity. Any absence therefore affects the whole group.

- You will have the opportunity to create and perform in your own theatre piece, created from scratch.
- There will be research assignments and written analysis tasks to complement the practical activities in class. These will be undertaken in your own time as homework/coursework.
- You will have opportunities to lead and contribute to class discussions and/or direct extracts from plays.
- You will develop knowledge and understanding of written plays and have a choice of a scripted piece you would like to perform.
- You are expected to ask for help when you need it – at Our Lady's, staff are always willing to find time to help you.

Above all, this is a course of **Independent Study** therefore you will be expected to be very disciplined in your approach to both written and practical tasks.

Your teacher will become a facilitator to your own areas of interest at this level and your final result will depend on the extent to which you undertake this study.

Employment Opportunities for those studying Drama & Theatre Studies:

- The Creative Arts sector is one of the biggest sectors in the country.
- Despite the challenges of lockdown, people in the Arts section have demonstrated their resilience and adaptability by showcasing work in many different ways (and have kept us entertained!)
- Resilience and adaptability are just two of the skills that are enhanced by studies in this area.
- Others are communication skills, self discipline, team work, listening skills, skills in analysis and evaluation as well as many more.
- Arguably, all employment areas require these skills!

The 'obvious'
ones!



Actor
Drama Teacher
Stage Manager
Theatre Technician
Event Management

Police force
Health workers
(doctors/nurses, etc.)
Lawyer
Counsellor/Psychotherapist
Social Workers
Teachers
Jobs in Industry
Engineering

The 'not so
obvious'
ones!



A spotlight is shown in the top left corner, casting a bright beam of light onto a blue surface below it. The beam is wide and bright, creating a strong contrast with the darker blue background.

Who teaches this subject at Our Lady's?

That would be me, Miss Bennett!

Having studied Drama & Theatre Studies at the University of Chester, I then became a teacher of Drama at Our Lady's, 17 years ago (where does the time go?!) A year later, I secured the position of Subject Leader of Drama and have been teaching this subject, which I am so passionate about, ever since.

In 2011, I completed my Masters degree in Education which allowed me to further my understanding of the Arts and the huge variety of opportunities available in the creative sector. My dissertation was based on some earlier work that I undertook working with inmates in a female prison and focused on analysing human behaviour – an element of Drama that people don't always consider when taking this subject, I found this work fascinating and was so privileged to extend my studies into projects at school where I looked at the leadership skills that could be complemented by taking Drama and Theatre Studies as a further education subject.

Although I love my job, I also have a very busy life with two children at home and a beautiful King Charles Spaniel that keeps me busy (and entertained!)

Over the last few years, I have also trained to become a Clinical Hypnotherapist and I am now self employed in this role for two days a week. If anything, this complements my work as a Drama teacher even more in that I am now more experienced in dealing with people and the issues they come to see me with. This knowledge and understanding of human behaviour is essential when analysing performance and work on stage.

In addition to all of the above, my practical experience of Drama and Theatre is enhanced each year when I am involved as Producer of our whole school show. This is an opportunity for every student at Our Lady's to get involved in a musical piece and some of the highlights from these can be seen on the next few slides.



Our Whole School Productions

Over the years we have produced many whole school shows:

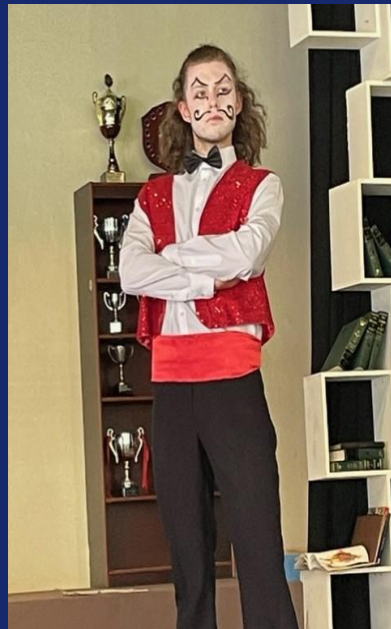
Matilda	July 2022
#whatismylife (showcase)	July 2019
Journey Through School (showcase)	July 2018
We Will Rock You	July 2017
Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat	July 2016
Hairspray!	July 2015
Jesus Christ Superstar	July 2014
Grease	July 2013
We Will Rock You	July 2012
Bugsy Malone	July 2011
The Wizard of Oz	July 2010
Oliver!	July 2009
Jesus Christ Superstar	July 2008
The Sound of Music	July 2007
Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat	July 2006

Below you will see some of the highlights of these shows in pictures!

Our School Shows!



July
2022





#whatismylife

July 2019





We Will
Rock You!
July 2017



Joseph and the
Amazing
Technicolor
Dreamcoat 2016



Hairspray!
July 2015



Jesus Christ
Superstar
July 2014



Grease
July 2013

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide features a close-up of a stage spotlight. The spotlight is angled downwards, casting a bright, circular beam of white light onto a dark blue surface below. The background of the spotlight area is a gradient of blue, from dark at the top to lighter where the beam hits.

Our Lady's 'Drama' Alumni

We've had many students pass through our 'Drama' doors over the years...

Olivia Mangan

Left Our Lady's in 2017
after studying both Drama
& Theatre Studies and
Performing Arts with us.

She studied 'International
Relations' at the University
of Birmingham and despite
her year in the USA being
interrupted by the
pandemic, she is now
continuing her studies with
a Masters degree in
International Security and
Terrorism.





Bekka Walmsley

Left Our Lady's in 2015.

Bekka has returned numerous times to help with the choreography for the whole school show.

She spent time teaching Dance to primary school children and now works in social media and marketing.

Demi Lemke

Coming from The Netherlands, Demi was originally studying in England for one year but enjoyed her time with us so much that she decided to stay on for the full two years at sixth form.

After A Levels, Demi went on to study Performing Arts at Leeds Beckett and was part of the competitive Cheerleading team as well as the Music Society at the university. In the summer of 2019 she had the opportunity to volunteer in Greece as part of a University programme and gave singing, dancing and acting workshops. She graduated university with a 2:1 and hoped to start her Masters in Professional Language and Intercultural Studies (with French) but her plans were disrupted by the pandemic. She is now working in sales and marketing and loves it!



Chloe Thompson

Studied GCSE Drama and Drama and Theatre Studies with us at Our Lady's.

Chloe now works as the Assistant Manager for the Gaiety Theatre and Villa Marina Complex on the Isle of Man:

"One day I'm flying scenery in and out for a musical or operating the famous traps at one of Matcham's finest theatres, the next I'm stage managing a load in for a major UK brand in the Royal Hall. No two days or productions are the same."

From learning the fundamentals of theatre to exploring Oscar Wilde's greatest plays, theatre has been with me ever since I stepped foot into the Drama studios of OLCC.

After completing my A Levels I went on to receive a first class honours degree in Theatre and Performance Technology at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA)."



Listen to Rosanna Bates – West End Performer

An interview with
Rosie:

[Rosie Bates -
YouTube](#)





Do I need to have studied GCSE Drama to take A Level Drama and Theatre Studies?

The answer to this is **'no'**.

In some cases, schools don't offer GCSE Drama as an option so we want to make our course as inclusive and as accessible as we can.

This means that as long as you have achieved a grade 4 In English GCSE you should be able to enrol on the course.

If you have any other questions in relation to Drama and Theatre Studies A Level, please contact:

c.bennett@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Good Luck with your exams and we hope to welcome you in September 2022!