

Year 9 Drama Curriculum Map

In Year 9 students have one lesson a week of Drama for half of the academic year.

Project 1: Macbeth – Condensed Version

To prepare students both for GCSE English and GCSE Drama we begin to study Shakespeare's "Macbeth". We explore the plot and the character relationships through improvisation and group discussion with the goal of creating a highly condensed version which demonstrates a thorough understanding of the key themes and events of the play.

Component 1: Introduction to Macbeth and Shakespearean Language

- Exploring the plot and themes of Macbeth.
- Group activities and discussions to enhance understanding.
- Animated Tales version with Teacher clarification

Component 2: Character Exploration

- In-depth study of key characters in Macbeth.
- Physical exercises to embody characters' traits and emotions.
- Scene work to understand character dynamics and relationships.

Component 3: Staging and Blocking

- Blocking scenes for effective storytelling.
- Developing audience awareness –understanding the fourth wall
- Conveying essential plot points and character dynamics: Emphasizing the importance of retaining essential plot points and character motivations while creating a condensed version of the play.
- Applying prior learning creatively:
 - **Transitions:** Integrating learned techniques for smooth transitions between scenes.
 - **Freeze Frames:** Incorporating freeze frames to highlight key moments and enhance dramatic impact.
 - **Narration:** Using narration creatively to enhance storytelling.
 - **Ensemble Work:** Collaborating with peers to creatively and independently apply ensemble techniques for effective group performances.
 - **Using Key Quotes:** Incorporating key quotes from Macbeth to emphasize important themes and character insights.

- Group rehearsals and exploration of ensemble staging.
- Performance

Project 2: Macbeth vs Macduff Creative Fight Choreography

In this final key stage 3 project students learn how to safely choreograph a fight scene. We explore the difference between realistic and stylised fight scenes and use the dialogue between Macbeth and Macduff at the end of the play as the basis for creating a performance of their final confrontation.

Component 1: Understanding Fight Choreography in Theatre

- Introduction to the principles of fight choreography.
- Analysing the importance of physicality in conveying character conflicts.
- Safety protocols and techniques for stage combat.
- **Exploring the Difference Between Stylised Rehearsed Fight Scenes and Real Fighting:** Understanding the distinction between choreographed, stylized fight scenes for theatrical purposes and real fighting.
- **Analysis of fight choreography in movies –** Captain America/The Matrix/Ip Man

Component 2: Character Analysis and Motivations

- In-depth study of Macbeth and Macduff characters.
- Understanding the psychological and emotional aspects of their conflict.
- Group discussions on character motivations and objectives.
- Understanding the fight within the wider context of the play.

Component 3: Collaborative Fight Scene Development and Reflecting

- Collaborative creation of fight choreography for the Macbeth vs Macduff conflict.
- Conveying Essential Plot Points and Character Dynamics: Ensuring that the fight choreography effectively communicates essential plot points and maintains character dynamics.
- Applying Creatively:

- **Transitions:** Using transitions to connect different phases of the fight sequence.
- **Freeze Frames:** Employing freeze frames for emphasis during key moments in the fight.
- **Script:** Option to use either the Shakespearean text or adapt for a modern audience.

- Rehearsing, refining and performing the fight sequence.
- Reflection and Evaluation: Individual and group reflections on the Macbeth project, assessing personal growth in understanding Shakespearean language and character development. Peer feedback sessions and constructive critique.