

## Drama – Year 9

### **Important note:**

Year 9 Drama is taught as part of a carousel with Music. Students study Drama for one half of the academic year and Music for the other half. The curriculum outlined below reflects the Drama component of the Year 9 carousel.

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### **Curriculum Intent**

In Year 9, Drama provides students with an intensive and focused experience of scripted performance through the study of Shakespeare. Building on the collaborative, devising and performance skills developed in Years 7 and 8, students deepen their understanding of character, text and interpretation. The curriculum is designed to help students apply physical and vocal skills with greater precision, explore creative interpretation, and develop confidence working with complex language and dramatic structure. There is also a strong cross curricular link with the GCSE English curriculum where students will study Macbeth in preparation for their written exam in Year 11

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### **What Students Will Study During Their Drama Rotation**

#### **Unit 1 – Condensing Macbeth**

Building on their understanding of the play, students explore how complex narratives can be communicated clearly and effectively in performance. They work collaboratively to condense *Macbeth*, selecting key moments and characters to convey plot and themes. Through devising, improvisation and the use of still images, students develop their ability to structure scenes, transition between moments and maintain audience clarity while working with challenging material.

#### **Unit 2 – Adapting Macbeth**

In the final stage of the Drama rotation, students explore creative interpretation by adapting the opening scene of *Macbeth*. They study how different theatre makers have approached the text before creating multiple versions of the scene, including their own independent adaptation. This unit encourages creative risk-taking, imaginative response and polished performance, while reinforcing students' understanding of text, atmosphere and dramatic intention.

#### **Unit 3 – Macbeth: Character, Conflict and Stage Combat**

Students begin their Drama rotation by exploring conflict and character through a focused study of *Macbeth*. Using the confrontation between Macbeth and Macduff, students learn how to create and perform basic stage combat safely and convincingly. They develop skills in choreography, pace, rehearsal and muscle memory, while exploring character motivation and emotional intent. This unit strengthens students' ability to move fluently between movement and text, and to communicate meaning both physically and vocally.

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### **Assessment and Progression**

Across the Drama rotation, students are assessed through rehearsal processes and practical performance outcomes. Assessment focuses on safe and effective use of movement, communication of character, creative interpretation of text, and disciplined rehearsal. By the end of Year 9, students can approach complex scripted material with confidence and creativity, providing a strong foundation for students who choose to continue Drama at GCSE.