



Edition 1
September
2024

DRAMA

YEAR 7 Curriculum Newsletter

Contact



Adam Hart
WPT Drama Subject
Director
ahart@wickersley.net



Curriculum Intent

At Wickersley Partnership Trust we aim to ensure our Drama curriculum is designed to sequence learning and embed the key skills and knowledge that are required for our students to become confident, creative and insightful. Students are encouraged to be not only independent but also collaborative and cooperative learners.

We teach a wide range of acting and technical design skills that fosters an enthusiastic appreciation of the theatrical form and a sense of enjoyment and fascination for stories and characters, their messages and themes. Through Drama, our students explore a range of social issues and cultural influences. The opportunities that we offer beyond the drama studio aim to provide unforgettable experiences and a vital contribution to school life.

Year 7 Curriculum

The topics we cover in Year 7:

7.1 Play Text Study: The Demon Headmaster

Students are introduced to the discipline of drama through the study of this published play text. The play explores the themes of power and relationships, key drivers of learning in the school's English curriculum. Students learn foundation skills of tableau, choral speaking, synchronized movement and improvisation, while developing their knowledge of off-text improvisation and staging scripted drama.

7.2 Thematic Exploration Unit: Identity

Students learn about the Russian practitioner, Konstantin Stanislavski, and the key concepts of his approach to drama and theatre. As they consider key extracts from the novel, *My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece*, students explore a variety of techniques such as physical action, the seven steps of character interrogation and hotseating. This practical approach deepens student understanding of characters and themes from English reading texts.

7.3 Devising Drama: Sibling Rivalry

Students develop their understanding of sibling rivalry in relation to the concepts of identity, relationships and power, which are the key drivers of the school's English curriculum.




Students explore thought tracking, mime and non-verbal communication, non-linear structures and proxemics before consolidating their learning in a final documentary-style piece of devised theatre.

Assessment Points




In all Y7 Drama study units, students are taught to speak confidently and effectively through improvising, rehearsing and performing play scripts in order to generate language and discuss language use and meaning, using role, intonation, tone, volume, mood, silence, stillness and action to add impact. (English Programmes of Study: Key Stage 3 National Curriculum in England)

Immerse Yourself

Stanislavski - An Actor Prepares

-  Develop Skills
-  Educational Videos
-  Drama Revision at Home

BBC Bitesize Drama

-  Get Revising Quicker!
-  Videos and Links
-  Study Support and Revision

Students can use KS3 BBC Bitesize, along with a range of revision videos:

The Actor's Edge Online Series - A brief animated guide to key teaching elements and techniques included in Konstantin Stanislavski's first book.

If they are struggling with topics in lessons or want to enhance their learning in the classroom then these resources are ideal for covering content at home.

Test Your Knowledge with Quizlet...

Quizlet's Y7 Drama flashcards are a fantastic way to memorise relevant Drama knowledge to help you with your studies. Click on the icon below to start!



Praise and Reward

Our rewards system can be broadly split into four categories: classroom level, subject level, school level and privilege rewards. We'll focus on classroom and subject rewards here - for more information about our rewards schemes, please see our website.

CLASSROOM LEVEL REWARDS

Awarded for: working hard, taking risks and rising to a challenge, making mistakes and learning from them, helping others, and taking pride in the school community.

Rewarded by: praise postcards, positive phone calls to parents/carers, positive text messages home, and lesson-based prizes.

SUBJECT LEVEL REWARDS

Reward scheme: Star of the Week, curriculum awards (Subject/School Way, participation, working with pride, embracing the whole curriculum), high flyer, extra mile, most improved.

Rewarded by: names displayed on reward boards, certificates, social media posts.

Broadening Horizons

Our intent is that all students have a full understanding of how to develop themselves as well rounded citizens, maintain healthy relationships and understand how to keep themselves safe both online and in their day-to-day life.

Our vision is that every student across each year group has the opportunity to see at least one live performance per year. These exciting opportunities are currently being organised!



The Demon Headmaster

A BBC iPlayer Series - The worst school in the country becomes the best overnight. How? The Demon Headmaster! It's up to a gang of intrepid kids to crack his master plan, save their school and the world!

Easy Street Theatre Company

The Junior Youth Theatre group is perfect for aspiring stars who wish to embark on an exciting journey filled with imagination, teamwork, and stagecraft. Their program offers a dynamic platform for children to explore their theatrical talents, learn the art of performance, and build confidence in a supportive and fun environment. Click on the logo for more information!



Careers

Students have been encouraged to think about careers that are intrinsically linked to the skills taught in Drama lessons, such as performers, stage management, set designer, movement director and how different jobs use different skills. Each element of the careers lesson links to an aspect of the Drama Way and represents the importance of students becoming subject specialists in order to take their place in the wider world.

Click on the logo below for more information on a variety of career options in Drama!



The Drama Way

Our Subject Way is designed to help students become young subject specialists. The Subject Way has two main purposes: Firstly, to teach students the vital skills they need to achieve their full potential and gain the very best grades they can. Secondly, to teach students how each subject relates to the wider world, incorporating the life skills they will learn.

It is our belief that knowing how what you learn links to the wider world, brings a subject to life and therefore improves overall understanding and engagement.

THE DRAMA WAY

WE COMMUNICATE CLEARLY TO AN AUDIENCE
We are willing to extend our learning beyond the **Drama Studio**

WE ARE MOTIVATED & STAY FOCUSED IN REHEARSALS

WE ARE SUPPORTIVE AUDIENCE MEMBERS

WE PERFORM TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY AND CONTRIBUTE TO GROUP DISCUSSIONS

WE REGULARLY USE KEY DRAMA WORDS IN DISCUSSION

WE WORK IN IMAGINATIVE AND CREATIVE WAYS

WE ARE CULTURE VULTURES

SUBJECT WAYS

Have your say! ✨

At WPT we're always looking for feedback. If you have any thoughts/opinions on this Curriculum Newsletter, its content or the curriculum in general, please click on the title to fill out a short feedback form.