



# DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES



HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR OLDFIELD  
EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION: 7262 DRAMA AND THEATRE  
QUALIFICATION: A-LEVEL



Develop your performance skills in our splendid Burrell theatre, experiencing what it is like to work in a professional setting, with professional practitioners.

Both teachers in the department are drama specialists. Ben Oldfield worked extensively as an actor, director, theatre producer and playwright. He has worked in theatres across the country and in the USA and now has an MA in education. Johanna Egar has worked as both a director and an actor, playing many significant roles and touring the country. She has over 17 years' experience as a teacher and has worked as an examiner for AQA Drama.

*Supported by such outstanding and engaging staff, amazing facilities, and a talented and dedicated tech team, perhaps the high standard of work is not such a surprise, and it fills me with pride to work in such a professional department.*

## WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN LOWER SIXTH

Throughout the Lower Sixth you will be immersed in practical theatre, challenging preconceptions and exploring a range of styles. We will work on enhancing your performance skills through team activities, including a field trip to London. You will study a number of masterpieces and their influence on the world of theatre, performing key extracts from plays.

The set text you will study in the Lower Sixth is Ibsen's masterpiece 'Hedda Gabler'. This play is one of the all-time great modern plays. It is complex, profound, enigmatic and unpredictable, exploring the darkness of the human psyche, and it deals with universal

themes that are significant to a modern audience: the identity of women in society, the destructive and redemptive power of love, and the fundamental human need to be free.

From a stimulus of your own choosing, you will also create an original piece of theatre. You will work in a group and be responsible for researching, devising, rehearsing, designing, directing and performing the piece. Alongside the devising, you record your creative journey in a Working Notebook, documenting your research, your intentions, your process, and your evaluation of the finished piece.



## UNRIVALLED RESOURCES

You will be working as part of a theatre company in a professionally run theatre fully equipped with lighting and sound, a wardrobe and props department, alongside professional practitioners – stage manager, technical manager, designers and directors.



Inspiring teachers: Both Mr Oldfield and Ms Egar are professional actors trained at prestigious drama schools and they have many years' experience of directing, writing and teaching. Lessons don't feel like lessons; the emphasis is on operating as a professional theatre company.

## WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN UPPER SIXTH

At the start of Upper Sixth you will focus on set text, 'Metamorphosis' by Steven Berkoff. 'Metamorphosis' is based on a short story by Franz Kafka in which a young man turns into a beetle. The play has a highly surreal feel to it, and is an opportunity for students to explore Berkoff's unique physical style. It satirizes how society operates, depicting the common man being crushed by the oppressive constraints of the modern-day world.

As the year progresses, your projects become larger and more ambitious. It is at this stage that you will be given full control over your final showpiece. Working in a tight-knit team, you will bring your production to life in the style of a practitioner of your choice. Your performance will be assessed by a visiting examiner. A significant amount of time is given to ensuring that the performance is of the highest calibre.

*The excitement and passion of the Truro School Drama Department as a whole is what makes the challenge of studying Theatre Studies such a delight. When it comes to choosing plays within the course, as much choice as possible is offered to students, so when we begin working on a play, we feel a sense of ownership over the final production that results in a higher standard of work.*

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## WHAT IS AN A-LEVEL IN DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES USEFUL FOR?

Drama and Theatre Studies develops skills essential to just about any career as it requires you to think creatively and work collaboratively, skills that all employers are looking for. The course represents a unique blend of academic rigour and practical performance. It would certainly be an advantage for teaching, the creative industries, sales, public relations and politics, but the list is more or less endless.

Exciting opportunities: Perform in a specially commissioned play at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival; co-direct school productions; perform in the Sixth Form play; continuing to work with us in your gap year, developing your work and building skills.

In the Spring Term your main project is performed and your Reflective Report completed. The remainder of the year is dedicated to exam technique to ensure you are fully prepared for the written paper before study leave.

