

Drama Department



HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Welcome

At Heckmondwike Grammar every pupil from year 7 to 13 is given the opportunity to study Drama and Theatre.

Curriculum Statement / Intent:

Drama is a universal art form that represents one of the highest forms of creativity. By exposing students to content and material that is socially, historically and culturally diverse, drama presents a rare opportunity to cultivate a deep sense of empathy and tolerance. With collaboration at the heartbeat of classes and rehearsals, students should enhance their performance skills, build confidence and become more effective and articulate communicators. They are dared to take risks with authenticity, and to face work, challenges and people with courage and honesty.

Curriculum Drama Lessons

The Music and Drama department currently consists of five full-time staff. Mrs Barton, Miss Hill and Miss Rattigan lead in the delivery of the drama curriculum. Standards in the department are high with students achieving well academically and taking full advantage of the extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities provided.



In year 7 and 8, all students are timetabled for an hour of drama per week and are taught in half-size classes of 15. Drama lessons are often of a very practical nature, covering a vast array of topics such as; Devising, Vocal and Physical Skills, Lord of the Flies, Shakespeare and Analysing and Evaluating Live Theatre. Drama is an option at both GCSE and A level. The EdExcel syllabus is studied.

Resources

Drama Studio

Fully equipped black box studio space with a semi-sprung floor. Includes stage, professional lighting rig and sound system.

Swann Hall

A proscenium arch stage with seating for 200 people, equipped with lighting and sound facilities.

Rehearsal Room

A rehearsal room used for Year 7 and 8 lessons.



Professional Links



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As a school, we have an established partnership with Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah, who are based in Leeds.

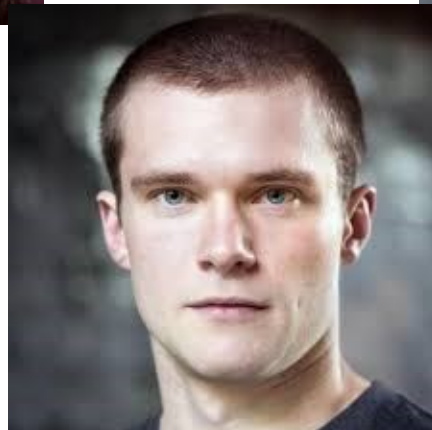
Over the course of the past three years, we have worked in collaboration with the Blahs to write, rehearse and perform a play which toured primary schools.

We have also previously performed our play 'Taboo', which was written by Mrs Barton, to health and education professionals, the public and to students from other schools to raise awareness about mental health issues in young people.



Our Past Alumni

Many of our past students have gone on to prestigious drama schools and conservatoires. These include LAMDA, East 15, Mountview, Arts Ed, Rose Bruford and Bird College of Dance.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Theatre Trips

We regularly organise theatre trips to see productions. For example, we have previously taken students to the Sheffield Lyceum, the Alhambra, The Royal Exchange in Manchester, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, Liverpool Everyman... along with many more.



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Youth Theatre

The department run a youth theatre group for students in years 7-9 who meet weekly to develop and explore performance skills and work towards a number of formal performances throughout the year. Youth theatre also provides an opportunity for those who wish to explore writing, directing or design elements of theatre such as lighting and costume design. Youth Theatre have frequently performed original plays written by themselves as well as published plays such as a performance of Willy Russell's *Our Day Out* and *Alice in Wonderland*.

Nameless Theatre Company

Nameless Theatre is open to students in Key Stage 4 and 5 by audition and interview only. As a group, we devise and write our own original work, usually based around issues affecting young people.



Shakespeare's School Festival

We have taken part in the Shakespeare's Schools Festival on several occasions over the past few years, which has given students the opportunity to work with professional directors and perform in theatres such as The Carriageworks and Wakefield Theatre Royal.



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School Productions

We have put on many full school productions over the years, ranging from full musicals such as Little Shop of Horrors, Return to the Forbidden Planet, West Side Story and We Will Rock You, to straight plays such as Othello and Alice in Wonderland.



Department Staff

Teacher of Drama / SENCO

Mrs S Barton

BA (Hons), QTS, PGCE in SEN Co-ordination, National SENCO Award, CPT3A , NPQML

Teacher of Drama

Miss A Hill

BA (Hons), QTS

Teacher of Drama

Mrs C Hellewell

BA (Hons), QTS

Teacher of Drama and Music

Miss K Rattigan

BA (Hons), OTS



For further specific information visit our department on the school website