



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

Drama Key Stage 3 Curriculum

	Topic/Big Question	Focus
Year 7	What makes a good story?	Story telling - This topic introduces students to basic Drama techniques such as Still Images and Thoughts aloud. Students develop performance skills whilst exploring how to structure an interesting story.
	How do you create tension on stage?	Darkwood Manor (creating atmosphere) - Students complete a range of performance activities that look at the importance of atmosphere when creating drama. Students develop characterisation skills whilst working in varying groups.
	If you could travel in time, would you go to the past or the future? Why?	Time Machine - Students explore a range of time periods whilst developing new performance techniques such as soundscaping and physical theatre.
	Where/when did 'theatre' start?	Greek Theatre - Students are introduced to the history of theatre, exploring new performance styles and genres. We look at a range of characters and stories from Greek mythology whilst students use traditional performance techniques such as choral speaking.
	How do you capture the audience's attention?	Curse of the Mummy's Tomb - this topic introduces the idea of a cliffhanger and explores how to effectively capture an audience's attention. Evaluative and analytical skills are developed with a focus of structuring feedback following a performance.
	Can a story be told through music and dance?	Musical theatre - Students explore the genre of musical theatre, with special reference to Matilda the Musical. Students work to create performances that have singing, dancing and acting.

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Year 8	How important is physicality when performing?	Silent Movies and Slapstick Comedy - Students learn about the genre and focus on their characterization through physicality
	How do the friends and families of knife crime victims feel?	Mugged (script, character, text, impact of music, creating sensitive drama) - Students explore this modern play script that deals with the prevalent issue of knife crime. Students develop their characterisation skills whilst creating sensitive drama. They also learn some new performance skills such as split scene and crosscutting.
	Should the UK bring back capital punishment?	Let Him Have It - Students learn about the historical case of Christopher Craig and Derek Bentley and the infamous line 'Let him have it'. Students explore the idea of 'interpretation' and the many different ways that dialogue can be delivered.
	When performing, do you have to play a human character?	Physical Theatre - Students are introduced to the art form and explore a range of different concepts. Students also look at how physical theatre can be written into a play whilst exploring a scene from the play 'Hard to Swallow'.

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Year 9	Can epic theatre create empathy?	Missing Dan Nolan - Students study the play 'Missing Dan Nolan' a Brechtian style piece of verbatim theatre. They explore the use of contrast and its impact on an audience. The subject matter of this play is also explored (a missing teenager), and students are required to consider how to effectively create sensitive drama.
	What are some of the consequences of unhealthy social pressure on teens?	Teenage relationships - looking at the pressures on teenagers in modern society, social drama, empathetic drama, multi rolling
	How did the industrial revolution impact theatre?	Victorian Melodrama - Students study the skills and techniques required for this art form. We look at stock characters, acting style, stock gestures and language - culminating in a class performance of the Victorian Melodrama 'Maria Martin and the Red Barn'
	Has society's treatment of women changed for the better?	Suffragettes - This historical movement is explored through a range of Drama techniques and performance styles. In each lesson students study a different influential person or event from the Suffragette movement and their impact on women's rights today.
	How do you create an impactful piece of theatre?	Devising from a stimulus - In preparation for GCSE Drama students study the art of devising original performances Students are given a range of different stimuli in order to use as a springboard for ideas, they then research and practically explore ideas for characters/scenes/storylines etc...