

Fairfield High School Curriculum Overview – Year 8

Subject	Drama	Why do we study these units in Year 8?
Lessons per fortnight	1	<p>In Year 8 Drama, students explore stage combat, classical Greek theatre, and interpreting scripted texts, developing a wide range of performance and creative skills. They learn to communicate ideas through movement, voice, gesture, and expression while safely choreographing action and interpreting characters. Workshops and performances build confidence, teamwork, and problem-solving, while also encouraging empathy, cultural awareness, and reflection on social issues such as bullying, tolerance, and equality. Students experiment with directing, staging, and delivering scripted and devised pieces, fostering creativity, innovation, and expressive control. Across all units, drama helps students develop both practical performance skills and social understanding, preparing them to engage thoughtfully with diverse stories and audiences.</p>
Setting	Mixed in TG	

Students are encouraged to be Responsible Global Citizens through activities/content on...

These Year 8 drama units help students become responsible global citizens by exploring diverse cultures, social issues, and perspectives through performance. By reflecting on themes like equality, conflict, and empathy, students develop respect, understanding, and collaborative skills that connect them to the wider world.

We ensure all students experience high challenge in the subject by including...

Students are taught challenging set phrases in dance as well as learning about the safety in performing lifts and contact work. Students are given challenging Shakespeare texts and numerous characters to explore through voice and movement.

Literacy work this year includes...

Quizzes on key words in both dance and drama and learning lines as part of scripted performances. Key vocabulary is displayed in the studios and referred to during lessons.

Innovation and Creativity opportunities this year include...

Students are encouraged to think creatively and originally in producing effective devised performances and choreography of stage combat which communicates specific intentions. Students use their own research to inform their choices made in productions and performances.

Employability opportunities/skills covered this year are...

Students have the opportunity to take part in professional workshops led by external providers, attend theatre trips and performances in professional settings and join our extra-curricular dance and drama companies. They can also develop their performance skills by performing in our numerous performance events across the year. Career inspiration displays and powerpoints and delivered to give students a wider knowledge of careers associated with the performing arts

Term	Unit title	Knowledge and Understanding/content	Skills	Assessment
1-2	GREEK THEATRE	<p>In this unit, students explore classical Greek theatre through texts such as <i>Pandora's Box</i> and <i>The Odyssey</i>. They will focus on directing and staging, learning how to interpret a script and bring it to life on stage. Students will develop an understanding of classical storytelling, dramatic conventions, and the cultural context of ancient theatre. The scheme encourages creativity, innovation, and enterprise as students experiment with performance styles and stagecraft. Through practical workshops and performances, they will refine skills in collaboration, expression, and problem-solving. This unit helps students build confidence, imagination, and a deeper appreciation of theatre's history and its relevance today.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Script interpretation Character analysis Directing Staging Voice projection Clarity of speech Expression Gesture Movement Body language Understanding classical theatre conventions Use of space Stagecraft Creativity Evaluative skills 	
2-3	STAGE COMBAT	<p>In this unit, students explore stage combat through devising, focusing on choreography and delivery. They will learn to create believable action sequences while maintaining safety for themselves and others. The cultural link is <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>, which provides context for conflict and tension in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choreography Stage combat techniques Physical control and coordination Timing and precision 	

		<p>storytelling. Students will consider themes of bullying and tolerance, exploring how conflict can be represented and resolved on stage. Through practical workshops, they will develop teamwork, communication, and creative problem-solving skills. This unit helps students build confidence, physical control, and empathy while using drama to engage with important social issues.</p>	<p>Gesture and body language Expression and emotion Safe movement practices Teamwork Communication Creative problem-solving Confidence Spatial awareness Audience awareness Performance delivery Reflective and evaluative skills</p>	
3-4	<p><u>INTERPRETING A TEXT</u></p>	<p>In this unit, students will explore performing scripted texts, focusing on interpretation, characterisation, and delivery. The cultural links include <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> by Arthur Miller, <i>Home</i> by Nadia Fall, and <i>White Pearl</i> by Anchuli Felicia King, which provide diverse perspectives and stories. Students will learn how to understand character motivations, convey emotion, and bring the playwright's words to life on stage. The focus on equalities encourages reflection on race, identity, and representation, helping students</p>	<p>Script interpretation Characterisation Voice projection Expression and emotion Gesture and body language Understanding character motivation Timing and pacing</p>	

		<p>explore the experiences of people of colour. Through practical performance work, students will develop confidence, expression, and teamwork skills. This scheme supports creativity, empathy, and social awareness while deepening understanding of scripted drama and its cultural significance.</p>	<p>Memorisation of lines Stage presence Spatial awareness Audience awareness Collaboration and teamwork Confidence Reflective and evaluative skills Cultural and social awareness</p>	
--	--	--	--	--