

## **The Drama Curriculum at Five Acres High School**

*In Drama, we learn practical and theoretical knowledge about performance so we can learn how to express ourselves confidently and critically evaluate performance work.*

### **Intent**

#### **Why should all pupils learn this subject?**

Drama is a key and crucial element to the school curriculum. Not only from an educational point of view but also from the view of character education. The performing arts industry is one of the largest in the UK and drama plays a major role within this. Theatre, TV, Film and Radio will impact nearly every single person in the UK and is often what people turn to for a variety of different reasons. Whether trying to find something to lift your mood after a tough day or allowing you to socialise as part of a theatre group, Drama and performing arts can shape who you are as a person.

Drama at Five Acres High School is broken down into two main categories; Practical and Theoretical knowledge. Being able to practically perform in many different forms is not only useful for life as an actor or performer. Through performing students are able to improve their key acting skills and work towards becoming great performers, however the benefits towards a student's confidence, creativity and teamwork could help to change their lives. During any future employment, being able to confidently communicate your ideas, emotions and thoughts is going to be crucial. Furthermore, the improvement to a student's teamwork and creativity is something which is going to make them stand out above others in the future. Studying the theoretical side to drama is just as vital as the practical. By being able to not only watch others perform and offer feedback but also being able to critically evaluate your own work is something which will be hugely beneficial no matter the student's future career path.

#### **What is the core knowledge in this subject?**

Core knowledge in Drama can be broken down into the following components;

#### **5 Key acting skills** - Voice, Facial expression, Posture, Movement and Gesture

These are the key skills that will allow you to create and evaluate successful performance. When performing you will need to consider all of these elements to create work to the highest level. An understanding of how and why to use these skills is vital to being able to perform and evaluating performance.

#### **Performance styles**

- Greek Theatre
- Naturalism
- Shakespeare
- Epic Theatre
- Physical Theatre
- Theatre of Cruelty

Each of these performance styles has a very important practical, theoretical and historical role to play within drama education. Each style has different techniques and reasons behind why they are used. Being able to not only perform but understand why each of these styles are used will give students a

better chance of success beyond Five Acres High School and a greater understanding of the way drama fits into our society.

## **Implementation**

### **How is this subject taught at FAHS?**

Drama is taught at Five Acres High School in a way that allows learners to imbed core knowledge and skill through both practical and theoretical lessons. The aim is that students are able to learn why techniques and styles are used and then practically explore these techniques and styles.

### **What are the key ways students practise in this subject?**

- Explaining and demonstrating how and why the 5 key acting skills are used. (Practical, Written, Verbal)
- Explaining and demonstrating the key elements to different performance styles (Practical, written, verbal)
- Practising and understanding why warm ups are used and how they can help to improve our 5 key acting skills. (Practical, Verbal)
- Creating performance of different theatrical styles (Practical)
- Understanding and showing how you can use different stimuli in performance. Ensuring that the impact of this stimuli is understood. (Practical, Verbal, Written)

## **Impact**

### **What does assessment look like in this subject?**

There are several ways in which assessment happens in Drama. Some are daily low-stakes means of assessment while others are more formal. These methods are:

**Formative** - This is ongoing regular informal feedback you receive from your teacher. This happens in almost every lesson. This can be seen through feedback on performance work which is verbal, or through feedback on written work.

**Self** - When creating performance work you will always be needing to make sure that you are critically thinking about how you can improve your work. So this assessment will happen in every lesson, however there will be key moments when students will be ask to really think about what they think has gone well and then what they think needs to be improved upon.

**Summative** - The final mode of assessment in Drama is a final performance and written work. At regular points throughout the year, students will be required to create a practical performance and complete a written paper. As part of the summative assessment you will receive an official

assessment result and QLA tasks to help you improve any areas that have been identified as potential gaps in your understanding of the core knowledge being assessed.