

Drama at Weston Secondary School

Why do you learn Drama at WSS?

Drama is the most important subject for understanding and developing communication skills. As language experts assert that 55% of communication is actually nonverbal, 38% vocal, and only 7% of the communication is understood through words alone. A subject that focusses on physical aspects of communication is important for the student's development: helping them to understand and manipulate visual cues in their world. The storytelling aspects of drama develop student's language, vocabulary, articulation and presentation skills to enable them to express meaning with confidence.

By the end of year 7 we aim for all WSS students to be enthusiastic participators who can communicate their ideas and stories effectively through Vocal Skills, Physicality and Use of the Stage Space.

What to expect in Drama lessons at WSS

In Year 7 pupils learn about and practise key Drama skills through practical exploration and games. This includes Spontaneous and Prepared Improvisation, Imagery, Split-scenes, Characterisation, Drama Styles and Genres. Performing from scripts and learning about the history of different types of stages. Pupils begin to build confidence with their performance skills and learn how to be safe and respectful in a practical environment.

What is taught in year 7 Drama?

Throughout year 7 students cover 6 themes/topics that enable them to develop their Drama knowledge and skills:

Introduction to Drama: Basic Skills, Key terms and safety

Soldier, Soldier: Improvisation, characterisation, farce

Audience Awareness and Performance Spaces: Performing for different types of stage

The Flood: The study of a play script, characterisation and blocking

Creativity: Imaginative use of space and materials

Devising: Creating extended improvisations, storytelling and structure

What do we offer outside the standard Drama curriculum?

Drama Club runs every Thursday afterschool to allow students to be involved in creating performances that are shown publically – like the School Musical and the Winter Performance Showcase. This friendly club is open to students of all abilities and allows them to develop their vocal projection, articulation and expression while experiencing the full process of producing performance work. We cater for students who choose to focus on back-stage performance-support roles as part of this process.