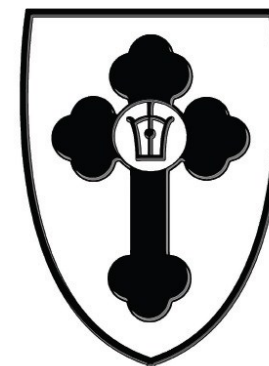




# DRAMA

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**William Brookes  
School**



**Drama**

**Parents' Guide  
2010 - 2011**



## MAIN AIMS

The Department aims to create a culture where a full range of drama activity is regularly available to our students and the local community. This approach connected to a commitment to a varied curriculum that encourages creativity, imagination and empathy provides a rounded Drama experience for all. Our arts centre ~ 'The Edge' ~ is a key component in this, giving us enhanced facilities for...

### SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS

By targeting different year groups we ensure that, by the time students finish their compulsory education with us, they have had several opportunities to take a major part in a school production.

In addition to these we have occasional whole school productions, Sixth Form productions that derive from our Theatre Studies course, a Sixth Form pantomime and a whole school musical. Past productions have included Les Miserables, Sweeney Todd, The Hired Man and more recently The Trial.

Pick up a programme for The Edge Arts Centre's new season, highlights of which include

- Monday night cinema
- Regular jazz
- Professional dance and music
- Our Sixth Form Pantomime
- A Musical

## VISITING THEATRE COMPANIES

William Brookes is now a regular venue for touring theatre companies. National Touring companies like Pentabus and Rogue Theatre bring all their productions to us for public performances.

We also have visits from a range of other companies, including Birmingham Rep and Kneehigh Theatre Company.

## THEATRE TRIPS

To complement the curriculum we make frequent visits to many theatres in the region, depending on their programmes.

## WORKSHOPS

Visits by touring theatre companies often include a daytime workshop for our students.

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

The Edge Arts Centre offers three after school drama clubs: junior drama sessions for Years 3—5; one for Years 6—8 and a separate senior group for Years 9+.

## CURRICULUM

Drama is taught to all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to give them the experience that helps them to decide whether or not to choose it as a GCSE option. It is also part of the English curriculum throughout KS3.

We believe that Drama education is not only about learning to be a great actor but enhances key life skills such as

- Building confidence
- Teamwork
- Communication Skills
- Empathy
- Creative Thinking
- Improving Public Speaking

These skills clearly have value in most walks of life and occupations.

Drama GCSE has become one of the most popular options in the school, with one student in four choosing it. We follow a largely practical syllabus, assessed by coursework (including two written evaluations by the students) and a practical exam.

Our A level Theatre Studies course is well established. It combines practical work with set text study, and is a popular complement to English Literature and Art.

## DRAMA STAFF:

Mr M Henson Head of Drama

Miss K Beresford Drama Teacher

Miss A Vermee Director of The Edge Arts Centre

