



YEAR 7

TOPIC 1 BASIC PERFORMANCE SKILLS

For the first term we teach the students basic Drama skills like still image, thoughts aloud, narration so they have an understanding of Drama skills and are able to build on these throughout KS3. Most students have never studied Drama as a discrete subject and this is a great start to explain our rules, and the expectations in a Drama lesson.

TOPIC 2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

This is the first opportunity for script work, it builds on the team and collaboration skills covered in topic 1. We add further techniques like physical theatre. The unit is fun and engaging and age appropriate. We teach Charlie before Christmas to explore character work and extend knowledge of voice and physicality.

TOPIC 3 PEER PRESSURE & BULLYING

We teach this unit at the start of term 2 as friendship groups have started to form and build and this is where peer problems begin in Year 7. Student who may have concerns or think they are being bullied also can role play situations and get help if needed.

TOPIC 4 NOUGHTS & CROSSES THEMES

We teach this at the start of the Summer term – it is a more mature topic and looks at class division and society. We introduce them to soundscape and creating pieces of Drama from a stimulus. We consolidate their learning and build on the skills we have already taught.

TOPIC 5 BUGSY MALONE

We end the year with fun exploration of key scenes looking at building characters, staying in role, use of accent and rapport. This is the first time we really explain design elements and how this creates atmosphere – students then operate the lighting etc from year 8 onwards.

Year 8

TOPIC 1 SPONTANEOUS IMPROVISATION

We teach this first to reengage them after the summer break. Students have to think on their feet and we spotlight a lot of the performances with the aim that everyone will have shown at least one improvisation in each lesson. Students gain an understanding of how a short task will have a short outcome and the difference with a rehearsed piece of Drama that takes twenty minutes to prepare. This is essential going forward.

TOPIC 2 SILENT MOVIES

This unit is taught in the Winter Term it supports those that have struggled to speak in lessons as our focus is on Non-verbal communication. The unit is high energy and fun and Year 8 students love it. We introduce captions and build on our Drama toolbox of skills we have already covered in Year 7. Students evaluate from this point onwards now they have the Drama vocabulary to evaluate using Drama terms.

TOPIC 3 MURDER MYSTERY

We teach this unit after silent movies as it fits with the exaggerated style we have been exploring but the students have to add vocal skills at this point. Student also create and write character profiles and then explore a character over time.

TOPIC 4 SHE'S LEAVING HOME/CHOICES

We teach this in the spring/summer term because this where students are aware of social pressures. It is also when students are likely, if getting into problems in school/at home, might consider running away, truanting and this scheme looks at ways to get help and role plays situations.

TOPIC 5 SOCIAL MEDIA

We changed this unit to Social media given the pressures in school, CPOMS we were receiving about Year 8. We role play situations and looked at laws around social media.

YEAR 9

TOPIC 1 TROUBLE AT THE NIGHTCLUB

This unit is taught first and is vital for the students especially in the current climate. Looking at news in the local area knife incidents tend to happen around year 9 – students start to get freedom from home. They are allowed to go out more on their own and can get into trouble more. Students over the years have responded really well to this unit.

TOPIC 2 MACBETH IN A MODERN SETTING

We teach this to prepare them for GCSE and it is the set text for GCSE English – we teach them the themes in a fun way so they are prepared for English but also use this as an opportunity to teach about transitions something they will need for GCSE DRAMA if they choose this.

TOPIC 3 CHARLIE'S NOTEBOOK

We teach this at this point as students are able to take a directing role and work in pairs on script annotation something they will need in lots of subjects and they have the skill set at this point to be able to do this.

TOPIC 4 DNA

We teach this in the summer term as their script exploration and character analysis unit. Students are able to direct and improvise as well as use the script in the lessons. Students are able to use the wealth of Drama skills we have covered throughout KS3. The script is relatable and engaging for all students especially as at this point they have picked their options.

TOPIC 5 BLOOD BROTHERS

We teach this last if we get time as it is the set for Blood Brothers.