

A level Drama and Theatre Preparation work

Welcome to Drama and Theatre at Woodhouse. Over the summer we would like you to expand your knowledge by reading as many plays as possible and watching as much theatre as possible. This will not only expand your academic understanding of the subject but also broaden your creative influences.

You should be trying to read at least 4 plays before September, from the list attached. These should not be plays that you have previously studied, but something new and potentially inspiring. You should also watch at least one performance live or online.

In addition, complete at least two of the tasks from the list below. Each task links to skills required by at least one of the examination components for Edexcel Drama and Theatre Studies A level.

Tasks (Choose one):

1. Watch a production online and evaluate. You should prepare a series of notes (500-800 words) to argue either for or against the following statement:
‘Live performance has nothing to say to a young audience.’
Your notes should be divided into acting, staging and at least two of the design aspects: set, costume, sound, lighting. You should explain the theatrical example clearly and analyse its impact on a young audience.
2. Read a play from the list and prepare for how you might start a piece of devising from it. Mind map initial ideas which come from the play, then plan three scenes that you would create. Your notes could include plot, characters, theatrical devices, script ideas, additional research, and practitioner influences. (500-800 words)
3. From one of the plays you have read, create an A3 production mood board for design ideas. This should reflect a key theme or mood within the play and should include ideas for set/costume/lighting. You can use a collage of collected images and/or draw your own. The board should be annotated and accompanied by a written analysis of how the theme/mood has been conveyed. (500-800 words)

You will hand your chosen task in during your first week at Woodhouse and these activities will also support you in our initial discussions and practical explorations.

Drama and Theatre A level

Preparation reading

Trigger Warning: Please note that many plays involve challenging themes, we recommend that you take the time to read not only the blurb, but also reviews of plays you intend to read to ensure that you are keeping yourself safe from potential triggers.

TITLE	AUTHOR / PLAYWRIGHT
4.48 Psychosis	Sarah Kane
Accidental death of an anarchist	Dario Fo
Amadeus	Peter Shaffer
Arcadia	Tom Stoppard
Attempts on her life	Martin Crimp
The Birthday Party	Pinter
Blasted	Sarah Kane
Blood wedding	Lorca
Blue / Orange	Joe Penhall
The Blue Room	David Hare
Breathing Corpses	Laura Wade
Caryl Churchill plays 1: vinegar tom /cloud 9	Caryl Churchill
The Cherry Orchard / Three Sisters / The Seagull	Chekhov
Complicite; plays 1	Complicite
Death and the Maiden	Ariel Dorfman
Dirty Butterfly	Debbie Tucker Green
Endgame	Beckett
Equus	Peter Shaffer
Fix up	Kwei-armah
Glengarry Glenross	David Mamet
The Government Inspector	Gogol
Hangmen	McDonagh
Iron	Rona Munro
Jerusalem	Jezz Butterworth

Look back in Anger	John Osbourne
Loot	Joe Orton
London Road	Blythe and Cork
Macbeth	Shakespeare
The Memory of Water / 5 Kinds of Silence	Shelagh Stephenson
A Midsummer Night's Dream	Shakespeare
Miss Julie	Strindberg
Monster	Duncan Macmillan
Much ado about Nothing	Shakespeare
Not a game for boys	Simon Block
Oleanna	David Mamet
Our Country's Good	Timberlake Wertenbaker
Orphans	Dennis Kelly
The Pillowman	Martin McDonagh
Plays one – East/West/Greek	Steven Berkoff
Plays one –Road/Bed/Two	Jim Cartwright
Posh	Laura Wade
Pronoun	Evan Placey
Random	Debbie Tucker Green
Reasons to be pretty	Neil la Bute
Rhinoceros	Ionesco
Romeo and Juliet	Shakespeare
A servant to two masters	Goldini
Someone who'll watch over me	Frank McGuinness
A Streetcar Named Desire	Tennessee Williams
Things I know to be true	Andrew Bovell
Tiny Dynamite	Abi Morgan
Waiting for Godot	Beckett
What we know	Pamela Carter

Some theatres showing productions online:

National Theatre

www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

The Globe

www.shakespearesglobe.com

