

The King's Hospital Drama Department

is an award-winning and vibrant department wherein up to 100 pupils participate in a variety of activities and performances throughout the year.

Why Take Speech and Drama Classes?

Active participation is what we strive for in our Speech and Drama classes. From the moment they arrive, our students are taught how to think, explore, sense and experience through the medium of creative drama.

Speech and Drama is perfect for helping young people to acquire confidence, effective communication and developing life skills. It allows young people to express freely, explore their imaginations and to develop and present their own ideas in fun and creative ways.

- **Improvisation** - developing imagination, communication and problem solving skills. Building confidence, trust and the ability to work effectively in a group.
- **Voice Work/Public Speaking** - working on good pronunciation, effective breathing, posture, projection, clarity and distinct speech in communication.
- **Reading skills** - developing the ability to read at sight, maintain good eye contact with the listener, to express and enliven the text using variety of tone and emphasis. These skills are essential to any budding actor as reading at sight is central to the auditioning process.
- **Character and Acting** - The students work on developing characters in many ways from creative play and script analysis to senior students learning professional acting techniques such as Method Acting. These skills are put into practise by performing monologues, duologues, scenes and plays. Students often write their own plays for competitions and exams.

All students have several performance opportunities throughout the year -

1st to 6th Year - **Poetry Appreciation Day, The School Musical, The School Play, Chapel Dramas, Open Days, Speech and Drama Teacher's Association Festival, The Drama Concert** and their **RIAM Grade Exams.**

3rd Year - **Comedy Improvisation** and perform for the rest of their year at the end of the term.

4th Year - **The Transition Year Drama Festival.**

5th Year - **Acting to Camera and Speech and Drama Teacher's Association Festival.**

The weekly classes are taught in small groups, some individual classes can be arranged with the teacher.

The students leave one subject class each week by rotation. We work with the students on scheduling, endeavouring to teach classes outside of school time, study periods or lunchtime where possible.

The classes are taught by Mrs Kerrie L. O'Reilly (BA Hons. Drama, MA Hons. Directing for Theatre).

Several past pupils of the Speech and Drama department are now working in Theatre, Film, Television and Teaching.