

A LEVEL DRAMA

Welcome to the Drama department at Halesowen College. I am very much looking forward to working with you in September. As preparation for when you start you will need to complete the following task. This will introduce you to some concepts and ideas that you will cover throughout the course and will begin to develop your knowledge ready for A Level Drama!

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT TASK

During your time in Drama you will cover a wide range of styles and take influence from a variety of Theatre practitioners/ playwrights. Your task is to conduct research into an influential practitioner/playwright and discuss the main aspects of their work. You should include:

1. A short introduction including brief biographical information
2. Their historical, social and contextual influences (what has happened at the time they were writing? How did their childhood affect their style? Etc.)
3. A few past plays/productions with a brief plot summary for each
4. Key features of the practitioner's/playwright's work/theatrical techniques associated with their work
5. Finally, a few quotes from the practitioner themselves or critics that you feel sum up their work, based on your research.

You should try to write in full sentences as much as possible and include images with annotations if appropriate.

Here are some practitioners/ playwrights you could look into, or you can choose your own!

BERTOLT BRECHT

KATIE MITCHELL

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

STEVEN BERKOFF

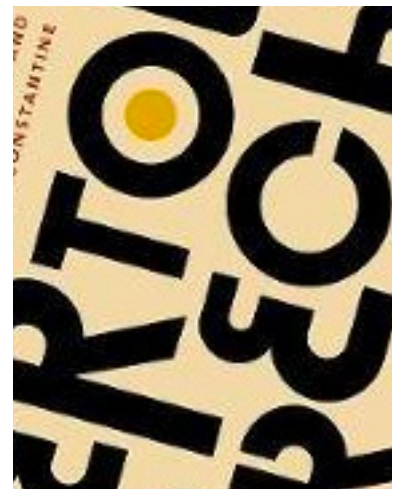
CARYL CHURCHILL

HAROLD PINTER

DV8

FRANTIC ASSEMBLY

GRAEAE THEATRE



A LEVEL DRAMA

These are the copies/ edition of the set texts that we use for the theory exam. If you are able to purchase a copy of these editions, you can read the plays and the notes in the text to prepare yourself for theory sessions next year.

Antigone by Sophocles- ISBN: 978-0-413-77604-4 Methuen Student Edition (Translated by Don Taylor, edited by Angie Varakis)

Our Country's Good by Timberlake Wertenbaker- ISBN: 978-0-413-69230-6 Methuen Student Edition (Edited by Bill Naismith)

National Theatre are streaming some of their most famous productions on YouTube, every Thursday. This is a great way to keep your creative juices flowing and to allow you to further develop your knowledge of Drama and Theatre. If you decide to watch some of these, it is worth practising your live theatre analysis skills.

You should make notes/write about:

- Your views on the success of the overall performance
- Key moments of the play that stand out to you and why?
- Analyse the performance skills used by specific performers and how this impacted the performance
- Some research in to the play/theatre group and how well they achieved their dramatic intentions.

<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home>

We use AQA as our exam board- you can check out the specification at this website:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/a-level/drama-and-theatre-7262>

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any further questions or queries, I will be happy to help.
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Please take care of yourselves, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you at Halesowen College next year!

