Subject Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact

Subject Drama

Curriculum Intent

At Heron Hall Academy, we give students access to a broad and representational Drama curriculum, which embeds skills and knowledge of theatre, the performance process, whilst allowing them to develop appreciation of the Arts. Our drama curriculum aims to empower students to develop transferable skills (6Cs and 2 Es) in order to make a positive contribution whilst at school, in the wider community and to become successful in their adult lives.

- Co-operation and team-work skills Being tolerant of others when working together.
- Confidence & Communication Developing vocal and physical skills, which allow them to approach a wide range of public speaking with confidence.
- Concentration Understanding the process of planning, rehearsing and reflecting on their own and others performances'.
- Commitment and self-discipline Encouraged and supported to excel when challenged, developing resilience and integrity
- Creativity Being visionary in the work they create and the benefits of participation in the Arts and where this could lead them
- Empathy Being able to put themselves in another person's shoes
- Evaluation— Appreciate how performers, directors and designers work together to achieve certain effects in theatre and communicate their intentions to an audience

There is an increasing depth of learning over time by following a spiral curriculum; with skills and knowledge being revisited across a variety of contexts including historical theatre, a wide range of texts and media, theatre styles and practitioners, from classic to contemporary, including Shakespeare. Students explore current affairs and different stimuli that are linked to challenging topics when creating their own work and working from scripts, making student's well-rounded performer's as well instilling empathy and a better understanding of the world around us.

The department has a partnership with Chickenshed, a local theatre company, which provides students with opportunities to develop their skills to the next level with workshops, performances and Q&As throughout the year.

Curriculum Implementation

Students explore a topic, including skills and knowledge, each half term at KS3 with interleaving to embed new learning in the long-term memory, through the act of repetition. For example, Greek Theatre is studied in Year 7, and then revisited in Year 8, as students go on a 'World Tour' of theatre.

At GCSE, the Edexcel course is followed which allows students to devise their own practical work, become a theatre critic when watching a piece of live theatre as well as studying and performing from a diverse range of plays. This takes place in 5 hourly sessions a fortnight. All lessons are supported with PowerPoints, visual and auditory resources including stage lights and furniture, and our impressive stage in a box to help visualise and realise their creative ideas in performance, whether this be as a performer or designer.

Students are given the opportunity to revisit content with retrieval quizzes, home learning and knowledge organisers also assist students. Resources and SOWs have been created to ensure students can see themselves within the curriculum, instilling enthusiasm and engagement by exploring topics that are relatable and underpinned with skills and knowledge needed to prepare them for beyond school life, with future pathways and careers being a prominent theme within the classroom practise and environment.

Students are offered teacher formative assessment and clear success criteria to self and peer assess. This builds the critical thinking skills needed in KS4. DIRT time is then used to improve performances. Knowledge and application checks are also used with practical skills being assessed in the application check at KS3. Data is used to inform planning, adapting of SOWs, revisiting skills and knowledge and to target individual or groups of students for intervention.

Curriculum Impact

The drama curriculum will foster an appreciation of the Arts and culture whilst developing a lifelong love of learning. Students will become confident, resilient, reflective learners whilst learning to respect other people, traditions and cultures.

Focused and engaging learning opportunities will lead to students with an interest in performance and choosing Drama at GCSE level. The skills, knowledge and terminology gained in KS3 will form the foundation for learning and development in KS4. All students will gain a range of wider, transferrable skills which will support their personal development and learning in other subjects.

Theatre trips are well attended with audience etiquette being seen at the theatre and when spotlighting in lessons. All students are given the opportunity to take part in the school production and extracurricular, building their confidence and belief within themselves.