

# Drama and Theatre Studies A-Level at Barr's Hill School

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## Course description

This two year course introduces students to all aspects of the industry. The course offers the opportunity to perform the work of contemporary playwrights and work devised by the students themselves. Students will also learn about stage lighting/ sound as well as stage make-up/costume design and can opt to be examined in these areas if they do not want to perform in front of an audience. Students will also study a number of play texts and will be examined on these at the end of each year of the course.

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## Course content

The course is divided into two parts – practical work which consists of 60% of the marks and written work (in the form of a research project and an external examination) which makes up the remaining 40% of the total marks. The practical work consists of a variety of options that students can choose from, these include developing performance skills, expertise in stage lighting, sound or stage make-up all of which are supported with a written portfolio. Written work centres on the analysis of staging, lighting, costumes and directorial decisions that all contribute to an audience's understanding of the text in performance.

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## Entry requirements

Standard Academic Advanced entry requirements of 5x Grade 5+ including English and Maths.

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## Assessment

In the first year all the practical work is internally assessed; the analysis of play texts is examined externally in a two hour written paper set by the examination board.

The second year is structured the same way but a more in-depth/analytical approach is expected.

## Future opportunities

Although the Drama and Theatre Studies course prepares students to pursue the subject at degree level, it also equips them with the skills necessary to pursue careers in the industry such as lighting technician, sound engineer, set design and make-up artist. Many directors begin their careers this way. In addition, careers in the music industry such as rigging and lighting concerts are open to students as are a number of opportunities working in Media/T.V. or Radio.

