



IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL

WOOLVERSTONE HALL
SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

DRAMA

at Ipswich High School





ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

At Ipswich High School we are passionate about the performing arts and the importance of encouraging and nurturing creativity in education.



Our Drama Department provides exceptional opportunities, both inside and outside of the classroom, for those with an interest in theatre and the world of performance.

With our fantastic resources, an experienced GCSE and A Level examiner teaching the courses, numerous enrichment opportunities and a history of outstanding results, Ipswich High School is leading the way in inspiring the next generation of performers and theatre practitioners.



WHY STUDY DRAMA?

Those with a passion for the theatre will relish the opportunity to gain a greater understanding and practical experience in Drama. For all pupils, studying drama allows them to:

- Enhance their artistic and creative abilities.
- Have a better understanding of themselves and the world around them.
- Foster self-discipline and confidence as well as developing strong communication and presentation skills.
- Develop skills in interpreting, researching, negotiating, problem solving, decision making and collaborative work.
- Explore social, cultural, intellectual and emotional issues.
- Show detailed understanding through analysis and evaluation.

THE HAYWORTH THEATRE

Drama at Ipswich High School is based in the Hayworth Theatre. Fully equipped with theatre lighting and sound, this is a fantastic resource that is used for lessons, enrichments and performances.

The venue, with tiered bench seating for 350 audience members, is available to hire in evenings, weekends and school holidays, and is used by many local theatre companies and dance schools.

Facilities include:

- 24/48 channel programmable lighting desk.
- 24 channel sound desk.
- Macbook with QLab for sound cues.
- A range of stage microphones.
- Smoke machines and strobe lighting.



PREP

Creativity is at the heart of the learning experience in our Prep School, with Drama skills and techniques used for practical exploration throughout the curriculum.

Through group and individual creative exploration, role play, presentation, performance, analysis and evaluation, pupils are able to develop and share a more sophisticated applied understanding.

We foster enquiring minds, effective communicators, confident presenters, creative thinkers and problem-solvers, ready to face any challenge that lies ahead.

Pupils from KS2 have the opportunity to take part in a full-scale musical theatre production which is directed and choreographed using the expertise of our specialist Senior School staff and performed in the Hayworth Theatre.

YEARS 7 - 8

The Drama curriculum in KS3 introduces pupils to the explorative strategies, skills and techniques that they will use throughout their Drama education.

With a focus on showing a practical understanding, pupils explore structure and form while developing performance and evaluation skills.

Pupils have the opportunity to devise their own Drama work in response to text and issue-based stimuli; they are introduced to physical theatre and storytelling techniques and explore a variety of ways to communicate ideas to an audience.

Communication, group work, presentation and analytical skills developed through Drama work can be transferred to other subjects in the curriculum to enhance learning.



GCSE (Edexcel)

Designed to engage pupils through encouraging creativity, this course focuses on practical work which reflects twenty-first century theatre practice.

Drama GCSE requires pupils to show skills in:

- devising
- performance
- evaluation
- analysis

Pupils will look at developing skills that will support progression to further study of Drama and a wide range of other subjects.

There are three components to the two-year course:

- Devising (40%)
- Performance From A Text (20%)
- Theatre Makers In Practice (40%)

If a pupil has a passion for Drama and theatre, and an interest in how ideas are communicated through performance, then this is the course for them.

As well as school trips to the theatre, pupils will also enjoy workshops and watching professional performances in our own Hayworth Theatre.

A LEVEL (Edexcel)

A course that combines a balance of practical and theoretical elements where pupils will extend their ability to create, analyse and evaluate drama and theatre.

Focusing on key play texts and theatre practitioners, we will use practical exploration to develop a detailed understanding that will lead to confident assessment of performance, portfolio work and written examinations.

Throughout the course, our focus will be on:

- Creating and developing ideas to communicate meaning as part of the theatre-making process, making connections between dramatic theory and practice.
- Applying theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance.
- Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre are developed and performed.
- Analysing and evaluating pupils' own work and the work of others.

Workshops and trips to live theatre performances form part of the course.



DRAMA ENRICHMENT

A wide variety of theatre-based enrichments are offered as part of our extensive Enrichment Programme. Some examples include:

Introduction to Stage Lighting and Sound – Year 7 pupils can gain all the technical understanding and skills that they need to make creative use of the stage lighting and sound equipment in the Hayworth Theatre, including rigging and focusing stage lights, operating the sound desk, editing and preparing sound effects in QLab and operating the smoke machines.

Year 7 Drama Club – An opportunity for our pupils to enjoy drama games, develop practical skills and prepare performance work for showcase opportunities.

KS2 Drama Club – As part of our through-school approach, pupils in Years 3 - 6 can choose to take part in a very popular Drama Club that is run by specialist Drama teachers in the Hayworth Theatre.

Hayworth Technical Team – An enrichment for those with an interest in the technical side of the theatre, offering the opportunity to design and operate stage lighting and sound in both the Hayworth Theatre and the professional venues that we visit. Pupils may also choose to focus on costume or set design.





HAYWORTH PLAYERS

Pupils in Years 8 to 13 are able to audition for each of the performance projects undertaken by our enrichment-based theatre company, The Hayworth Players.

This gives those with an interest in the theatre the opportunity to take on the challenge of creating original and creative Drama performance.

Each year begins with our 30 minute abridged Shakespeare performance being prepared for the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Our cast take their production to Dance East, a professional theatre venue, to perform alongside other local schools as part of 'the world's largest youth drama festival'.

Our Spring/Summer project will always be a contemporary play, usually as part of National Theatre Connections. Each year the National Theatre commissions ten new plays for young people to perform, bringing together some of the UK's most exciting writers with the theatre-makers of tomorrow. This again leads to a performance in a professional theatre venue.



"A confident production, and all performers gave passionate performances...From the very start of the show it was clear that the performers were committed and truthful to the characters and ages they were playing."

"This was a creative, focused and engaging performance by a mature and committed cast."



Photograph from Into The Woods



SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS

Each year, the Performing Arts departments join together to collaborate on a full-scale musical theatre production in the Hayworth Theatre.

All pupils in the Senior School are welcome to take part and, as with all our performances, the Hayworth Technical Team manages the challenges of operating stage lighting and sound.

The experience of rehearsing and performing in a production of this scale develops skills and confidence, as well as being an unforgettable experience and an opportunity to come together creatively as a school.

Previous productions have included:

Our House: The Madness Musical

The Addams Family

Beauty & The Beast

Into The Woods

Joseph & The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat





LAMDA



LAMDA Exams are about achievement and empowerment. They provide our pupils with the opportunity to improve self-expression, self-assurance and, most importantly, have fun.

LAMDA Exams boost a pupil's CV from a young age, the exams are supported by OFQUAL and are QCA accredited, which attract UCAS points for university applications.

Every young person will, at some point, need to go for an interview, lead a presentation or be involved in an element of public speaking. LAMDA lessons develop the necessary skills to communicate effectively, work with others and establishes strategies to handle nerves, anxiety and challenging situations.

We have very strong participation throughout the school, and a history of outstanding results for our pupils.

INDUSTRY LINKS

We want our pupils to be inspired by those who are working in the theatre, and have developed strong links with professional practitioners both locally and nationally.

Our pupils benefit from:

- Professional performers, directors and writers on audition panels.
- Visiting performances, theatre workshops and masterclasses in the Hayworth Theatre and online.
- Work experience for our pupils with local theatre companies.
- West End and local theatre performers giving feedback on our productions.
- Regular trips to the theatre, both locally and in the West End.
- An annual performing arts residential trip in London or an international destination such as New York.



DRAMA SCHOLARSHIPS

Drama scholarships are available to pupils entering Year 7 and to new pupils joining the school in Year 9. These scholarships, each with their own tuition fee award, are carried through to Year 11. Those entering Year 12 can apply for a Sophie Youngman Scholarship for Drama. We look for scholars with clear potential and an enthusiasm for the theatre.

All Drama scholarship applications will be reviewed by the Director of Drama; those shortlisted will be invited to a practical workshop and performance audition. A professional actor or director is always involved in the selection process.

As well as the opportunities provided in lessons and enrichments, Drama scholars benefit from an individual focus on their development and regular meetings with specialist staff, visiting practitioners and scholars from other year groups.

For further information on our Drama Scholarships please contact our Admissions Department:

admissions@ipswichhighschool.co.uk



CONTACT US

For further information about Ipswich High School, our Drama offer, admissions or the scholarship process and to arrange a private tour, please contact our Registrar:

01473 201058

admissions@ipswichhighschool.co.uk

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