



Bolingbroke
Academy

Drama: Our DNA

Head of Drama: Ms Murphy

At Bolingbroke we aim to offer all students a creative outlet and the opportunity to perform for audiences of their peers in class and their friends, family and teachers in school shows. Pupils take part in Drama through lessons, KS3 Drama enrichment and DofE. Pupils are given the opportunity to audition for a whole-school musical every year, a play solely for Year 7-8 pupils, and we are piloting our first sixth form play, giving every pupil ample opportunity to take to the stage!

Curriculum

The Drama curriculum at Bolingbroke strives to offer students both an introduction to, and deeper exploration of the subject. From year 8 onwards pupils will have the opportunity to practically explore a plethora of dramatic skills.

- **Script Skills:** developing pupils' skills in reading, discussing and re-creating exciting and challenging plays.
- **Devising:** giving students the opportunity to create their own performances based on topics that are interesting and relevant to them.
- **Evaluating:** developing the ability to evaluate performances both in class and professional companies, recognising successful elements and offering constructive feedback for improvement.
- **Appreciating:** gaining an appreciation of theatre through regular trips to professional performances.

Throughout the school, students are developing skills that lead them towards being a successful drama practitioner, be that through GCSE Drama, school shows or LAMDA lessons.

Extra Curricular Drama

- In addition to classroom Drama lessons there is a **KS3 Drama enrichment** which aims to develop skills in confidence building, improvisation and creation of a character through a range of fun games and activities. KS3 Drama enrichment gives pupils the opportunity to:
 - Take part in Drama in year 7 at Bolingbroke Academy
 - Meet and interact with pupils across year and peer groups they wouldn't ordinarily come into contact with
 - Build self-confidence and the ability to perform in front of others
 - Be creative and imaginative within a fun and supportive environment
- **The Musical Production** takes place every year in February, and brings together the school's musicians, actors, artists and more in a fantastic sense of community. Previous productions include "Bugsy Malone" and "Hairspray". The cast is a mix of pupils from all year groups, receiving acting direction, singing tuition and dance choreography to learn in the lead up to our spectacular shows. Pupils are also able to get involved behind the scenes, as ASMs or lighting and sound operators. Rehearsals take place during DofE time.
- **The Year 7-8 Production** runs in the second half of the year, with performances taking place in June. This is a great opportunity for our younger actors to explore larger roles, or gain their first on-stage experiences. We previously produced "Blood Brothers" to great acclaim.

LAMDA

Pupils have the opportunity to take peripatetic acting lessons, either 1-to-1 or as a pair. This tuition is perfect for those seeking a creative and expressive outlet, with an interest in developing their confidence, communication and performance skills. This is a fantastic aim in itself, but pupils would also be in a position to enter for LAMDA examinations, if and when they would like to.

LAMDA examinations are internationally-recognised, Ofqual-regulated, graded exams in acting. Pupils can take an exam on their own (monologues) or as a pair (duologues). As pupils progress, those being entered for Grades 6-8 also gain UCAS points upon successful completion, which further broadens university prospects.

Pupils receive ten 25-minute lessons at the school per term, and travel to LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) in Hammersmith in order to take their exams. These last between 20-30 minutes, and consist of presenting 2-3 monologues or scenes, and answering some Q&A-style knowledge questions. Pupils are then awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Last year at Bolingbroke we celebrated an outstanding **100% Pass** rate, with **70% achieving Merit** or above and **20% achieving Distinction**.

- Sixth Form LAMDA pupils are currently rehearsing for our first ever **Sixth Form Production** in their lesson time, with scenes from the play dual-purposing as pieces for their upcoming exams. The Sixth Form Production is less focussed on production values, instead being geared toward more in-depth rehearsal processes. Pupils will engage with acting exercises and professional practices, ideal for accomplished actors and those considering taking next steps into the world of performing arts.