**ADVANCED HIGHER DRAMA**

The course allows learners to explore both the practical and analytical aspects of the subject. It provides opportunities for learners to develop skills through practical aspects of theatre, the creative exploration of the art of theatre and its forms and practices.

Learners will investigate how theatre practice has been shaped by key practitioners. They will expand and develop their own skills within their chosen area of acting, directing or design.

The aims of the course are to enable learners to:

* Develop autonomy and independent thinking skills
* Develop skills in performing within their chosen area of acting, directing or design
* Develop individual creativity when applying skills in problem solving, analysis and evaluation
* Analyse current theatrical performance
* Develop analytical skills in the interpretation of texts
* Develop knowledge and understanding of 20th century theatre practice and key practitioners
* Develop knowledge and understanding of social and cultural influences on drama

**CONTENT**

This course consists of two core units as well as a practical examination and a written project. Although the unit titles are the same as Higher there is a focus on Theatre practitioners and their impact on modern theatre. Students will be required to analyse the influences, theories and practice of these practitioners.

**Drama Skills**

In this unit, learners will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in devising, directing and performing through the exploration of a key practitioner. They will independently create a devised drama production, using their dramatic interpretation of complex texts. They will present it to an audience and evaluate their effectiveness as an actor or director.

**Production Skills**

In this unit, learners will focus on a study of a key theatre practitioner, and explore in depth the influences on and the theory and practice of their chosen practitioner. They will explore and analyse key productions that reflect their acting or directing or design methodologies through both research and practical experimentation. They will also view and analyse a live theatrical event, considering performance concepts and effectiveness.

**ASSESSMENT**

**Component 1 – Practical Exam (60 marks)(60%)**

The practical exam has two sections:

* Section 1 will have 50 marks (for performance in the chosen role of acting, directing or design)
* Section 2 will have 10 marks (these marks are awarded for a report based on their chosen role and production)

**Component 2 – Project (40 marks)(40%)**

The candidate will select a topic from relevant and current performance theories and practice. The project will consist of a written report and may contain visual evidence.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

While entry is at the discretion of the department, students of Advanced Higher Drama should have achieved an A/B pass at Higher Drama and English. In some instances, students who have other previous experience of drama may also have access to the Advanced Higher course.