

Overviews 2026-27

The overviews below are NOT prescriptive. Freedom to change topics for good reason is advised if topics that are a struggle to present or learners struggle with content. It would be useful however to keep the units in the same order for standardisation purposes –



At Maplewell Hall School, our Performing Arts/Drama curriculum is designed to build confidence, creativity and communication skills from Year 7 through to GCSE. We create a safe, supportive environment where students can express themselves, work collaboratively and explore a wide range of performance styles.

Year 7 Students begin by developing the essential skills needed to take part in Performing Arts. They learn how to work safely, build trust, and collaborate through team-building games and simple creative tasks. Singing, TAIKO drumming, movement and basic drama activities help them grow in confidence and enjoy performing as part of a group.

Year 8 In Year 8, students deepen the skills learned in Year 7. They explore different forms of drama and performance, take on leadership roles during warm-ups, and learn how voice, movement and space communicate meaning. They begin creating characters, improvising, and structuring short performances. Lessons also link to wider curriculum areas such as English (script work), P4A (emotional awareness and real-life scenarios), and PE (safe physical practice).

Year 9 Year 9 prepares students for the demands of GCSE Drama. They refine their devising skills, work in varied group sizes, and evaluate their own work with increasing independence. Cross-curricular links continue, including cultural understanding, numeracy in choreography, and emotional literacy through themed drama units.

Years 10 & 11 – AQA GCSE Drama Students follow the AQA GCSE Drama course, developing practical performance skills alongside written analysis and evaluation. They explore set texts, create original devised work, and take part in performance projects that build confidence, resilience and teamwork.

7

7	Games and getting to know the students	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topic		Introduction to performing arts -	Taiko Drumming	Fairy tales –	Silent movies –	Singing	Improvisation
Assessment		Group work Resilience Skills builder: Creative problem solving Self management Communication Collaboration	Chorus work Timing Projection Rhythm Pace round	Characterisation Topic knowledge	Exaggeration Comedic timing Group work	Rhythm Special awareness jazz contemporary tap physical theatre organs of articulation	Creativity improvisation
Retrial practice Knowledge checks and assessments.							

Year 8

Year 8						
	Soap Opera	Macbeth	Greek Theatre	Wacky soap	Panto rehearsal	Panto Performance
Assessment Retrial practice Knowledge checks and assessments.	Physical emotion Characterisation Director skills	Collaboration Rhythm	Group work Topic knowledge Clarity	Cues Stage points dance technical language	Recalling lines Stage presents	Facial expression Vocal expression Rule of 3

Year 9

Year 9	Script writing	Music within the arts	Cultures DIVISING PROJECT	Blood brothers	Theatre craft	Advert project
Assessment Retrial practice Knowledge checks and assessments.	Characterisation Social realism Director skills Dialogue	Group work breath work movement Effective naturalistic Melodrama performance empathy from audience	Chorus work research creativity	Technical skill script reading Stage presents Character development	Stage presents Line delivery Practitioner awareness	Character development Comedic timing persuasive language

Year 10 GCSE DRAMA

10						
X2 LESSONS PW	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
	PRACTICAL Introduction to Drama: Performance and devising skills	PRACTICAL <i>Component 1, Section B:</i> Practical performance and design explorations	PRACTICAL <i>Component 2:</i> Devising skills	PRACTICAL <i>Component 2:</i> Development Mock devised performance	PRACTICAL <i>Component 1: Section B:</i> Practical explorations	PRACTICAL <i>Component 3:</i> Performance workshops
	THEORY	THEORY	THEORY	THEORY	THEORY	THEORY

	<i>Component 1:</i> Read set play for section B	<i>Component 1,</i> <i>Sections A and B</i> Design workshop	<i>Component 2:</i> Research and devising logs	<i>Component 1,</i> <i>Section C:</i> Live theatre performance	<i>Component</i> <i>1, Section</i> <i>C:</i> Live theatre performance	<i>Component 1:</i> Mock examination
Assessment	RP (reflective practice) Knowledge checks	Reflective practice	Feedback from	MOCK Devised performance	Feedback from section b and c	MOCK EXAM

Year 11 GCSE DRAMA

11						
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
X2 LESSONS PW	PRACTICAL <i>Component 2:</i> Devising: development and rehearsals	PRACTICAL <i>Component 2:</i> Work-in progress sharing and recorded performance	PRACTICAL <i>Component 3:</i> Rehearsals and work-in-progress performance	PRACTICAL <i>Component 3:</i> Visiting examiner performance (x2 scripted Students perform two scripted extracts from	PRACTICAL <i>Component 1:</i> Revision for Sections A and B	PRACTICAL <i>Component 1:</i> Summer examination

				published plays)		
X2 LESSONS PW	THEORY <i>Component 2:</i> Research and devising logs	THEORY <i>Component 2:</i> Devising logs <i>Component 1:</i> Section B revision	THEORY <i>Component 1:</i> Revision for sections A and B	THEORY <i>Component 1:</i> Revision for section C	THEORY <i>Component 1:</i> Revision for section C	THEORY <i>Component 1:</i> Summer examination
Assessment	Retrial practice Knowledge checks	Retrial practice Knowledge checks and assessments.	rehearsing scripted performances Practice papers and feedback	Practical script exam	EXAMS	EXAMS
