



# Drama Department

**FORTISMERE  
SCHOOL**



# WELCOME

The Drama department is a truly special place. We offer students an experience they cannot get at any other school. Over the last 14 years we have used our amazing industry contacts to broaden our curriculum; from work experience, to masterclasses and backstage visits. I love the creativity our students bring to the course and their total commitment to us has meant that strong bonds have formed over the years. Many alumni are still involved in what we do; often bringing their work in or sharing their expertise.

Lauren Overs  
Head of Drama





# OUR PHILOSOPHY

## ENABLING CREATIVE INNOVATION

Fortismere Drama is dedicated to nurturing imagination and creativity within our students. We are an outstanding, high-achieving, creative and forward-thinking department. Our varied provision spans beyond the curriculum, celebrating Drama, Theatre and the Arts in all aspects of school life.

Our students are creative, innovative thinkers and are encouraged to apply this skill across the curriculum. Innovation is at the heart of what we do in Drama; we believe our students deserve the right to ignite and nurture their talent, confidence and Arts awareness.

Co-operative learning practices underpin all we do within the Drama department; we believe that the self-awareness, confidence and analytical approach these practices foster, impacts across the curriculum and students' lives

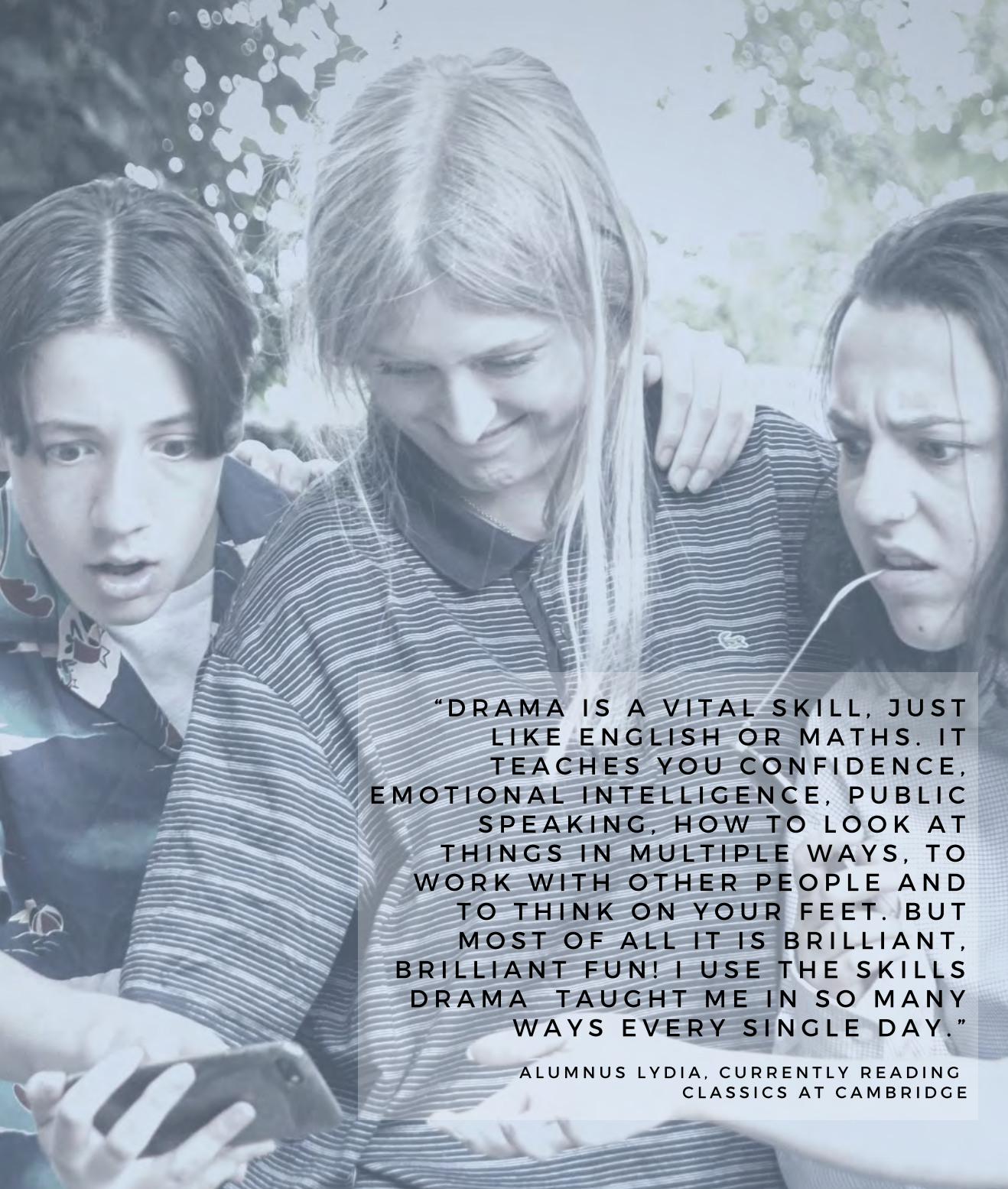
We have committed, highly trained staff, many of whom are still engaged professionally within their discipline. Our staff are actively engaged with the Arts and are committed to offering our students up-to-date experiences which reflect UK and Global Arts development. We are developing innovative cultural leaders of the future..

We believe that Drama can improve social tolerance, create positive social change, foster emotional intelligence and ultimately lead to documented improved academic performance for all of our students in every subject (Jægar, M. M., & Møllegarrd, S. 2017).

Students' aspirations are raised through confidence in their ability, specialist support and access to London's cultural offering. We believe that all students should be able to access, engage and create within a safe and exceptional Drama curriculum.

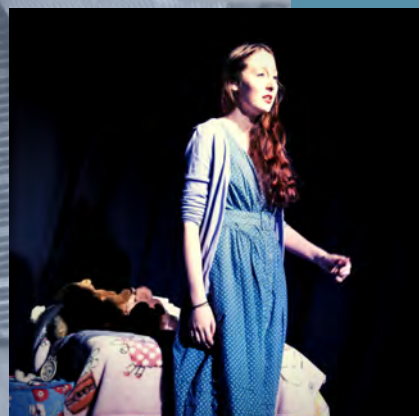
We provide innovative, engaging and challenging programmes of study for all students, across a range of abilities, at every Key Stage.





“DRAMA IS A VITAL SKILL, JUST LIKE ENGLISH OR MATHS. IT TEACHES YOU CONFIDENCE, EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, PUBLIC SPEAKING, HOW TO LOOK AT THINGS IN MULTIPLE WAYS, TO WORK WITH OTHER PEOPLE AND TO THINK ON YOUR FEET. BUT MOST OF ALL IT IS BRILLIANT, BRILLIANT FUN! I USE THE SKILLS DRAMA TAUGHT ME IN SO MANY WAYS EVERY SINGLE DAY.”

ALUMNUS LYDIA, CURRENTLY READING CLASSICS AT CAMBRIDGE





# KS5 CURRICULUM




AQA Drama and Theatre Studies is a very popular choice and the department is extraordinarily active. Students continue to develop their ability to work as part of a team performing extracts from plays as part of their exam as well as devised work written by them. Plays such as 'The Glass Menagerie' and 'Hedda Gabler' are studied for the written exam. Over the years, N10 Productions, our in-house theatre company, has taken student work to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival - selling out and earning four and five star reviews! Year 13 devised productions have transferred to The Arcola Theatre in London. We have a play writing course called New Views working with The National Theatre, which offers sixth form students opportunities to work with professional playwrights. There are mentoring opportunities for sixth form students working with younger students and opportunities to run KS3 clubs. We ensure EPQ opportunities are available at Key Stage 5 and we have had student directing and designing shows for the department and for local festivals. We also offer audition support.

A Level Drama is recognised favourably nationally by many Universities. University statistics show Drama graduates have one of the highest employment rates. This is because the subject develops self-confidence and produces well-rounded, articulate people. Fortismere Drama gives students the skills to communicate, develop and refine their ideas and the ability to adapt and respond to changing environments.

We are proud that many of our alumni have attended the nation's top drama schools (Rose Bruford, RADA, Central, Guildford, Bristol) and the top universities (Oxford, Cambridge, Exeter, Warwick, Bristol, Hull) to study Drama and English.





# FACILITIES

We believe our students deserve the right to ignite and nurture their talent, confidence and Arts awareness, learning in specialist spaces with technical facilities that enhance the learning. We have 3 Drama studios and a fully fitted Theatre space that seats 270. Our technical equipment includes computerised moveable lighting which we train students to programme and operate. We have Apple IMac computers for video editing using Final Cut Pro, industry standard software. We have use of a recording studio and costume design spaces.



# S U C C E S S

As a large Drama Department, we are proud of the development and success the Department has achieved over the past few years. Drama and Theatre Studies is an academic A-level considered as an equal and valid subject choice by every university in this country (including Russell Group). We are AQA's (our exam board) **exemplar centre for top mark group practical pieces** in the whole country. Videos of students' work is used by all examiners to benchmark the top grade. 25% of our cohort applied to Oxford or Cambridge last year! 3 Drama A-level students are now currently **studying at Oxford/Cambridge University**.

Drama and Theatre studies A-level gives our students fundamental skills in **Leadership, Creativity, Public Speaking, Project Management, Communications and Producing**. All key skills our government want for young people. The majority of our Drama alumni go on to **study at Russell Group Universities** or at Drama Schools. 90% of students go on to study a very wide range of Undergraduate Degrees; Law, Maths, Geography, Engineering, English, History to name a few. The A-Level offers a Design option and students can be examined on costume/set/lighting/sound design as well as Acting. Our progress of SEN pupils and disadvantaged is excellent and these groups of students consistently achieve highly in this subject which often is not the picture in other subjects across their education.



We also have success in students getting into the best Drama schools in the world, including RADA and the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. A past student even **won a BAFTA** and this year a past student won his 3rd Fringe First Award and Stage Acting Award in Edinburgh.

Our department has been involved with New Views play writing competition at the National Theatre and had students given special commendations and they have gone on to produce the plays in the school. The Drama Department produces whole school productions with Staff and Students every year. Last year our Panto 'Aladdin' sold over 1000 tickets and raised thousands of pounds for the school.





# TRIPS

## New York City and Beyond!

Not only do we see 20 PLUS live theatre performances during the A level course, the Year 13 A-level students go to New York City on a unique and 'once-in-a-lifetime' school trip.



The course demands all students work in the style of a practitioner (a theatre company or director) we work with are Punchdrunk, an immersive theatre company. Punchdrunk have a show called Sleep No More (an adaptation of Macbeth) in New York which is the purpose of our visit. We see the show, meet the company and also do a workshop about the show. We see lots of theatre, do workshops and immerse ourselves in the big apple. This is a really exciting opportunity!



# MASTERCLASSES

FORTISMERE DRAMA  
PRESENT

**An Audience With:  
Mackenzie  
Crook**



**TUESDAY 7 MAY  
2019  
4PM NW HALL**

Please book a ticket (free)  
available from Ms Overs in the  
Drama Office

FORTISMERE DRAMA  
PRESENT

**An Audience With:  
Kwame  
Kwei-  
Armah  
OBE**



**FRIDAY 29  
MARCH 2019  
4PM NW HALL**

Please book a ticket (free)  
available from Ms Overs in the  
Drama Office

FORTISMERE DRAMA  
PRESENT

**An Audience With:  
Producer  
Joseph  
Smith**



**TUESDAY 14TH MAY  
2019  
3:30PM NW HALL**

WINNER 4 OLIVIER  
AWARDS  
**COME  
FROM  
AWAY**  
A NEW MUSICAL

Please book a seat (free) from  
Ms Overs in the Drama Office

FORTISMERE DRAMA  
PRESENT

**An Audience With:  
RUPERT  
GOOLD**



**30TH OCTOBER  
2018  
11AM NW HALL**

Please book a ticket (free)  
available from Ms Overs in the  
Drama Office

**The Drama Department** hosts Masterclasses which allows students access to Theatre and Film professionals across all disciplines that enriches their curriculum and gives them a glimpse into a possible future career.

For example, last year we were able to host **Rupert Goold**, the Artistic Director of The Almeida Theatre, We had our very own 'Inside the Actor's Studio' and Rupert was so giving of his ideas, expertise and time. The Artistic Director of London's Young Vic theatre **Kwame Kwei-Armah**. Kwame spoke with such passion and gave all of our students an inspiring message about following their passions about working in the Arts industry and gave an insight into Contemporary Theatre. **Mackenzie Crook**, BAFTA-winning writer, actor, director, and comedian kindly came to work with our Year 12 Drama students; discussing his work on Jez Butterworth's hit 2009 play 'Jerusalem' in which he starred in. Theatre producer **Joseph Smith** came in to talk about his hit award-winning West End musical Come From Away.



# PARTNERS

## WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT US

### National Theatre

#### National Theatre

"I just wanted to let you know that a number of our team have already contacted me to tell me how impressed they were with your students and how engaged they were with the performance. They also felt really welcomed by the staff. It means such a lot to them when they are in a different school every day to have such a warm and welcoming experience to end the week - thank you!"

Charlie Bindels, Secondary and FE Programme Co-ordinator

### ALMEIDA THEATRE

#### Almeida Theatre

"We have enjoyed a successful and rewarding partnership with the Drama Department at Fortismere School for many years. Students regularly attend our productions and are actively engaged and interrogative audience members. Alongside free tickets to our productions we provide students with workshops led by industry professionals and training in technical theatre skills. We also provide opportunities for students to join our Young Artists programme which includes our Young Company, Young Producers and Young Critics groups. The staff at Fortismere are fully invested in our Partnership and in the development of their students, it is always a pleasure to work with the school".

Jo Carey, Participation Associate

#### Donmar Warehouse

"We work with Fortismere to bring some of the best theatre-makers into the school to work with teachers and students, and then bring students to see our world-class work in our theatre in Covent Garden. Through our workshops we ensure that we are showcasing the different pathways in the industry, so students understand the wealth of careers available".

Phil McCormack, Education Manager

#### Jackson's Lane

"Over the past few years we have worked with Fortismere School Drama Department to deliver a number of drama and circus projects. It's always a pleasure to work with your students and staff and we are looking forward to future collaborations."

Natalia Cid, Senior Creative Learning Manager



Students backstage at 'Come From Away'  
Phoenix Theatre, West End

**JACKSONS LANE**  
NORTH LONDON'S  
CREATIVE SPACE

**DONMAR**



# OUR ALUMNI

Our alumni include Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter Jess Glynne, Ray Davies CBE, Sir Rod Stewart CBE, Hollywood actor Ed Skrein and Hollywood film director Dexter Fletcher and over the decades we have cultivated a multitude of talent spanning all areas of the arts.

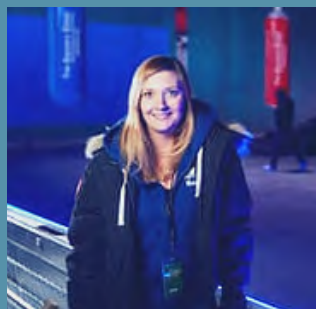
Students also use the wide variety of skills learnt through Drama to engage in very successful careers in Teaching, Law, Engineering, Army, Design, Civil Service, Modelling, Lecturing, Healthcare to name a few.



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Drama was always my favourite subject and it felt like one of the few places in school I could truly be myself and express myself. I loved creating plays and studying them. One thing in particular I loved about the Fortismere drama department is that they didn't baby us or shy away from more nitty-gritty plays: e.g. Crave by Sarah Kane and Shopping and F\*\*\*ing by Mark Ravenhill. Studying drama at Fortismere definitely expanded my mind, my creativity and my understanding of the world.

Caterina Inchisa



Studying drama at Fortismere inspired me to pursue theatre and performance at university for both a BA and Masters degree, and led to a career of writing and directing shows and touring them around the country. The department's combination of rigorous academic analysis and collaborative, fun creative work gives students a varied experience and teaches techniques that are easily transferable to other subject areas and life skills. Fortismere's exam performances benefit from dedicated staff and professional technical equipment, and are always a highlight of the school year. I'm still good friends with many of the people from my Drama A level course and even sometimes work with them - studying and making shows together is a uniquely bonding experience that you don't gain from any other subject.

Billy Barrett



I was offered my recent job mainly due to my ability to perform under pressure, my interpersonal skills and stellar communication. I owe these skills, and therefore my job, almost entirely to Ms Overs and the Fortismere drama department who helped me to improve and hone them. On top of real-world success, some of my fondest school memories are of the drama department and the tight bonds I formed with the other students within it.

Matt Wickham



Drama was one of the lessons I always looked forward to attending. I was thoroughly supported throughout my time on the course, the department would go above and beyond to ensure all students could reach their full potential.

Tacara Newton--McIntosh

I wanted to do an extended project, Ms Overs kindly offered to help me direct a whole school production of Anthony and Cleopatra, which we took to the Shakespeare for School Festival... Drama at Fortismere fuelled my passion and creativity for the subject, I am incredibly grateful as I wouldn't be where I am today without it.

Rosie Kosky

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# CONTACT US

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**@fortismeredrama**