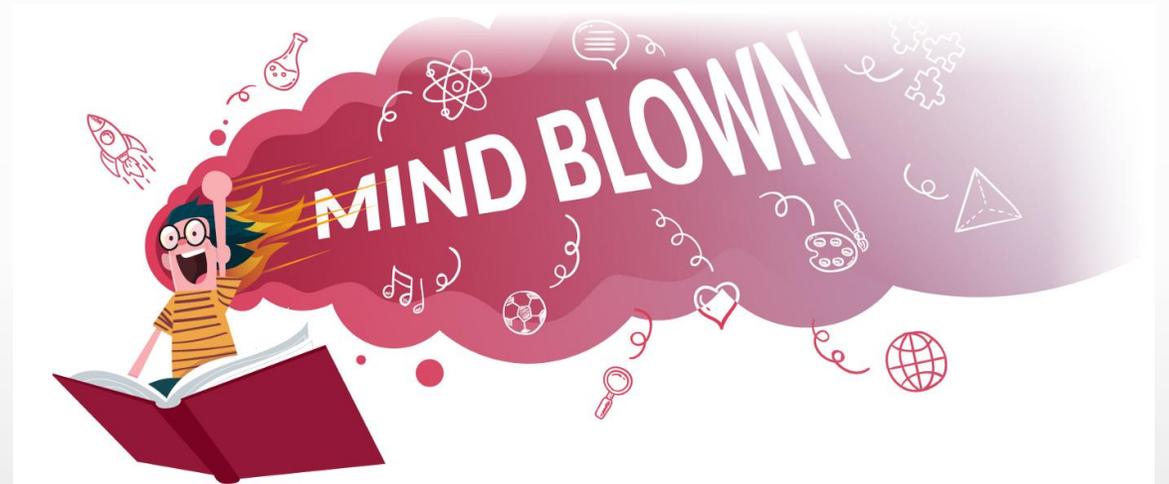


# Drama

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What a fabulous choice you have made! You have chosen to take Drama as one of Your GCSE options. I am **Miss Crick** and I will be your Drama teacher in September. I am also the Subject Leader for Performing Arts. I am new to Bulwell and I look forward to taking you through the two year GCSE course.



# Miss Crick

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Hi year 9. I thought I would take this opportunity to say Hi! and tell you a little about me, as I am new to the school. I am **Miss Crick, Curriculum Lead for Performing Arts at Bulwell Academy**. I will be teaching you Drama in September.

I initially trained in Musical Theatre at Guildford School of Acting in Surrey. I like all sorts of different genres of theatre, but my favourites are Musical Theatre and Physical theatre work.

I still act, when possible, so you might be able to see me one day in a theatre not so far from home.

In drama we will learn lots of different skills, working with scripts and also making our own pieces of theatre.

Performing, Designing, directing... you get it all in Drama and I can't wait to share the magical experience of theatre with you.



# Drama Challenges

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To get you ready for when we see you next, I have come up with some challenges I would like you to complete! These will all help prepare you for learning upon our return for GCSE drama.



# Drama Challenge 1:

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The Drama roles and  
responsibilities

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## **Theatre knowledge and Terminology**

Create a handy A4 sheet outlining the purpose of each role together with their responsibilities.

- \* Director
- \* Producer
- \* Choreographer
- \* Musical Director
- \* Set designer
- \* Costume Designer
- \* Lighting Designer
- \* Sound Designer
- \* Stage Manager
- \* Theatre Manager

# Drama Challenge 2:

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Watching a piece of recorded  
theatre or a film

## Theatre or film review

You are to watch either a film (this could be one you have seen before or a new one) or view a piece of theatre which is being streamed online and then write a review based on what you have watched. The template for your review can be found below:

After you have watched the film and made some notes on what you have seen, you must then write your play review.

This should be written in a series of paragraphs, with a catchy title, incorporating the following format:

### Introduction:

States the facts about the play – the title, the director, the company, date and place of production and any other useful information.

### The Plot:

This is where you write about what the play was about (see your notes above), including the style of play this is. Give your personal impression of the production here, and any other insights into the plot/themes etc.

### The Acting:

Write about the acting – what you liked/didn't like. Give examples from the play. Consider movement, mannerisms, gestures, relationships with other character etc.

### The Design:

Describe the setting and the costumes (see notes above) and give your judgment on them in light of the play. Comment on the use and effectiveness of lighting and sound.

### The Conclusion:

Make any other comments you feel are relevant. Decide whether the play was successful overall. You might mention whether you were entertained or bored here.

This can either be hand written or typed on the computer. It helps, if you choose to review a film that you pick one with humans as the characters instead of animated films. This will help you go into more detail within your response.

# Drama Challenge 3:

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## Blood Brothers

Blood Brothers will be our set text which we study over the two years.

This research will give you understanding of the play in preparation for our studies when we return.

## Background Information on 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell

Please complete either a PowerPoint or learning poster which gives detail about Blood Brothers under the following sub headings:

- ★ Context of the piece
- ★ Location it is based in
- ★ Time period it is set in
- ★ Political background of England at that time
- ★ Characters and their relationships with each other
- ★ Themes which can be seen throughout the play
- ★ Basic plot synopsis (what happens in the storyline?)

# Drama Challenge 4:

You are to complete the quiz, focusing on section A of the GCSE Drama exam. This will develop your knowledge of Theatre Roles, their responsibilities, as well as general theatre terminology.

**GCSE Drama**  
Component 1  
Section A – Roles in the Theatre / Stage Directions / Stage Configurations

Inside the Theatre Space

1) USR is an abbreviation of

- Upstage centre
- Upstage right
- Upstage regular

2) The wings can be found

- In the fly tower
- Back stage
- To the left and right of the stage

3) The fly tower accommodates

- the wing space
- lighting rigs, scenery and backdrops
- rehearsal space

4) The stage direction '*Titania storms downstage*' suggests the actor needs to

- Walk towards the wings
- Walk towards upstage centre
- Walk towards the audience

6) You are rehearsing a performance of your text extract in a black box studio space. You decide to perform in a 'traverse' configuration. What does your group need to consider?

- Projecting your voices to the audience in the highest seats?
- Spacing the action along the traverse
- How to avoid having your back to the audience

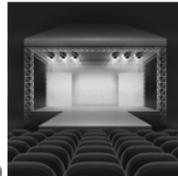
7) You are performing A Midsummer Night's Dream in the woods at the end of the school field, you escort the audience through the school grounds whilst in character. You advertise your performance as:

- A Promenade Performance
- A Proscenium Arch Performance
- A Performance in the Round

8) You are performing a duologue for your class. You ask them to sit on three sides of the performance space you have marked out on the studio floor. Your audience are...

- In an 'End On' configuration
- In an 'Apron' configuration
- In a 'Thrust' Configuration

9) You are watching a play at a Proscenium Arch Theatre, the set designer has erected an extra stage space in front of the stage which

11)   
The above stage configuration could be described as

- Traverse
- Thrust
- Proscenium arch with an apron

12)   
The above stage configuration is called

- Thrust
- Traverse
- In the round

13) 

14) What is a positive reason for choosing promenade staging

- Can work brilliantly when locations suit the work presented. Interesting experience for the audience.
- Moving between locations can break the tension of the piece and take some time.
- The logistics of planning the performance are challenging

15)   
*'Darling, the sight lines are an issue so there needs to be lots of movement around the space otherwise the audience will simply die of boredom.'* Which staging configuration might Dame Judi Dench be talking about to Tim Minchin?

- Proscenium Arch
- Thrust
- In The Round

# See You Soon

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I hope this work set will help give you some idea of the work we will be doing throughout the course. By completing these tasks you will stand yourself in good stead to start your learning journey in GCSE DRAMA.

See you soon and stay safe 😊

