WHY STUDY DRAMA?
In a society in which effective communication is vital, the study of drama develops verbal and non-verbal, individual and group communication skills which are skills for living.

Drama enhances students’ artistic and creative abilities and gives them a better understanding of themselves and their world. Through an exploration of drama contexts relating to identity, societies, cultures, ideologies, gender, time and change, students are able to become more critically reflective members of the Australian community.

In Drama students are able to explore intellectual, social, physical, emotional and moral domains through learning which involves thought, feeling and action.

Drama fosters self discipline, confidence and team work and develops skills in interpreting, researching, negotiating, problem solving and decision making.

WHAT IS STUDIED IN DRAMA?
The study of drama covers a diverse range of practical and theoretical components. These include:

- vocal skills
- movement and basic stage techniques
- play texts and playwrights
- forms, styles and genres of dramatic action
- acting spaces and dramatic conventions

Students take part in a variety of learning experiences which include:

- improvisation and role play
- script analysis and script writing
- researching and dramaturgy
- directing and design
- critical evaluation
- extension study in film acting and physical theatre

HOW IS DRAMA STUDIED?
Acting and staging skills are taught in conjunction with a study of texts and contexts which enable students to devise, interpret, analyse and evaluate dramatic forms and style. Students work in the classroom, the adjacent grounds, the library, the costume and props rooms, and perform in a theatre acting space. Their understanding of drama is developed through texts, videos, guest artist workshops and attendance at theatre performances.

HOW ARE STUDENTS ASSESSED?
Assessment involves the three dimensions of Forming, Presenting and Responding.

Forming tasks involve the decision making necessary to prepare for a performance and can relate to scripted drama or student devised work. This tests the students’ knowledge base with regard to the elements of drama, and involves both oral and written assessment.

Presenting tasks are the polished performances of student work either individually or in a small group. This assessment focuses on the study of both Australian Drama and World Drama.

Responding tasks are written analytical responses to the work of their peers, or theatrical performances at large, plays and playtexts, drama periods and styles. Students are required to respond in the course of study as audience, actor, designer and director.
WHERE DOES DRAMA LEAD?

The study of drama provides a good foundation for tertiary study in creative and performing arts, arts administration, acting, media studies, teaching, journalism, law, public relations and speech pathology.

Drama is also important in the development of leisure skills as it encourages on-going involvement in community theatre and encourages active interaction in all forms of cultural activity.

Any career which involves social interaction and public presentation will be enhanced by the study of Drama.

ENTRY STANDARD

It is not necessary for students to have completed Junior Drama although achieving a Sound standard in this subject would be an advantage. It is recommended that students should have received a Sound achievement in English in order to enrol in Drama. Any student not fulfilling these requirements may seek an interview with the Drama teacher.

It must be noted that students choosing this subject will at times be required for assessment out of school hours. Also, as part of their learning experiences in Drama, students are encouraged to attend live dramatic performances both in and out of class time. The study of Drama requires that students mainly work in groups. Students must be willing to accept this condition and be co-operative and reliable group members.