

DRAMA – NATIONAL 4 AND NATIONAL 5

What are the aims of these courses?

National 4 and National 5 Drama strive to help you to develop an appreciation of drama forms and mediums, theatre arts, staging and scripts. Drama helps your personal and social development: working with others helps you to learn patience, tolerance, self-discipline and respect. You will also improve your self - confidence, self-awareness, concentration and communication skills. This is an excellent course for students interested in a career in the world of theatre or media.

What are the recommended entry levels / criteria for these courses?

National 4 Drama

CfE Secure Level 3 Drama

National 5 Drama

- A pass in National 4 Drama

Note: This course will particularly benefit those pupils who have participated in Drama Masterclasses and/or extra-curricular Drama activities within school.

What content is included in these courses?

Both National 4 and National 5 Drama develop the candidate's knowledge and understanding of drama skills and production skills. The course focuses on the skills of exploring, acting, devising and using production skills in a variety of dramatic contexts. The course consists of two units:

1. Drama Skills – a practical unit where pupils will explore a range of stimuli for inspiration and drama explorative strategies to develop performance skills. Pupils will devise and perform a short, original piece of drama and take responsibility for writing and directing a section of their drama.

2. Production Skills – pupils will explore a variety of theatre arts, including acting, lighting, sound, costume, set design, make-up, props or stage management. Pupils will then apply this knowledge to a set text and they will perform in a group production.

What skills will I develop?

We will explore a range of drama explorative strategies and dramatic techniques; drama forms and mediums, theatre production skills/theatre arts and study dramatic extracts.

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

You will experience working both in the Drama Studio for practical work and in the classroom for theory work. You will encounter a mixture of classroom practice in Drama: direct teaching; pair and group work; whole class discussion and independent research.

How will I be assessed?

National 4

The final National 4 course pass/fail award is internally assessed by the school and verified by the SQA. The Drama Skills and Production Skills component units of the course are assessed internally by the teacher and verified by the SQA.

National 5

Pupils will sit an SQA written examination paper (40% of final grade) and an examination performance (60% of final grade) which is assessed by a visiting SQA examiner. The Drama Skills and Production Skills component units of the course are assessed internally by the teacher and verified by the SQA.

What are the homework requirements?

The course requires a significant amount of study time in and out of school. Assignments will vary according to the unit of work and will include essays, dramatic commentaries, evaluations, background reading and research, learning lines, drawing plans and performance rehearsals.

What are the possible progression routes?

- National 4 Drama students can progress to National 5 Drama
- National 5 Drama students can progress to Higher Drama
- Further study, employment and/or training

Certification anticipated in Intermediate 2 Drama:

National 4 Drama is allocated 24 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4.

National 5 Drama is allocated 24 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5.

DRAMA - HIGHER

What are the aims of this course

This course is designed for anyone who has an interest in Drama, whether from an academic, vocational or personal point of view or a combination of these. It is designed to give you knowledge and understanding of many aspects of theatre, including an appreciation of theatre forms and styles, theatre practitioners and drama plays/scripts. In addition, the course aims to develop your theatre skills and increase your experience of theatrical performance, as well as develop knowledge of the social/historical/theatrical contexts of plays. You will develop your self-awareness, self-confidence and social and communication skills.

What are the recommended entry levels for this course?

- National 5 Drama at a grade A-B.
- Intermediate 2 pass at a grade A or B.

What content is included in this course?

Higher Drama develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of theatre, focusing on acting, directing and group work skills. From August 2014, the course will consist of two compulsory units:

1. Drama Skills – practical group work where a significant theme or issue is explored to create a performance piece. Individuals take on a director's responsibility for a section of the devised production, which is performed in front of an audience. They will also learn how to develop character in a range of ways and develop understanding of form, structure, genre and style when creating and presenting drama. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of the social and cultural influences on drama. They will also learn how key evaluation skills.

2. Production Skills – learners will perform in a group production, where they can choose to be assessed on their acting skills or on their performance of a theatre production/theatre arts role.

What skills will I develop?

- responding to text, including stimuli, when creating drama
- developing knowledge and understanding of social and cultural influences when creating drama
- exploring drama form, structure, genre and style
- gaining knowledge and understanding of production skills e.g. lighting, sound, costume, make-up
- working with others to share and use drama ideas and to use production skills when presenting.
- using evaluative skills within the creative process

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

You will experience working both in the Drama Studio for practical work and in the classroom for theory work. You will encounter a mixture of classroom practice in Drama: direct teaching; pair and group work; whole class discussion and independent research.

How will I be assessed?

Pupils will sit an SQA written examination paper (40% of final grade) and an examination performance (60% of final grade) which is assessed by a visiting SQA examiner. The Drama Skills and Production Skills component units of the course are assessed internally by the teacher and verified by the SQA.

What are the homework requirements?

The course requires a significant amount of study time in and out of school. Assignments will vary according to the unit of work and will include essays, dramatic commentaries, evaluations, background reading and research, learning line, drawing plans and performance rehearsals.

What are the possible progression routes?

- At this stage, Advanced higher is not available at Breadalbane Academy. However, if undertaken as either private study or at college/university, Higher Drama can lead to Advanced Higher Drama – an excellent 'stepping stone' to Further Education at university.
- Higher Drama is accepted by many universities and colleges as an entry requirement and is an essential requirement for any Performing Arts FE Qualifications.
- Higher Drama is highly valued as a qualification by employers.

Certification anticipated in Higher English:

Higher Drama is allocated 24 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6.