

## **CURRICULUM**

The Drama curriculum offered is designed to be cyclical, repeating and building on skills through practical opportunities in a safe environment. Pupils are encouraged to take risks and experiment with ideas, both individually and in a group context. There are two strands to the teaching philosophy. Practical performance skills and personal skills. Both are equally important and pupils who do not aspire to follow a pathway of NCEA Drama will hopefully gain confidence in sharing ideas, public speaking, managing self, resilience and more.

### Year 7 module

Pupils started the module with a foundation of movement skills and techniques based on the work of Rudolf Laban, building these into a devised group performance based on 'Where the Wild Things Are' by Maurice Sendak. Through this they have to negotiate, problem solve and self manage, whilst working collaboratively towards a holistic goal. Peer and self review were used regularly, and through presenting sections of performances and giving constructive feedback, they are able to build confidence and the ability to describe and explain what they have seen and done.

### Year 8 module

Building on the skills learned in Year 7, pupils develop control of voice, body, movement and space through role play and devising. 'Teacher in Role', 'hotseating' and improvisation are used to build a narrative that the pupils create through their own ideas and imaginations. They are then given the opportunity to work collaboratively to develop their own performance using independent group skills.

### Year 9 module

Pupils develop an original drama within a group context, sharing ideas, problem solving and using the techniques taught. They create their own characters, exploring a narrative through improvisation and devising processes. Their final performance requires them to show control of the drama techniques; voice, body, movement and space. They also have to incorporate conventions such as Flashback and create environments through sound and expression.

### Year 10 option

During the year pupils follow a watered down version of NCEA Level 1. They will be introduced to the terminology and assessment processes used. The biggest differences are having access to the Theatrical technology (lighting, staging and costuming) and videoed work in progress sessions, in which pupils are expected to critically reflect on their own and others' work. We cover Melodrama, Devising, Improvisation and Shakespeare. There is also an end of year test to mirror the external assessment at Level 1. In this, pupils write about their own work during the year and that of a play they have seen as a member of the audience. They also have the opportunity to visit various theatres throughout the year.

NCEA

We focus on four disciplines within the curriculum. These are repeated each year to consolidate the learning and enhance the depth of understanding. Pupils study a Theatre Form, Script, Devising and Live Theatre analysis each year.

	Theatre Form. Internal.	Script. Internal.	Devising. Internal.	Live Theatre. External.
Level 1 Course	Commedia dell'arte.	Kids Play / Production.	Children's Theatre Based on Australasian Fiction.	Mary Poppins, Lord of the Flies.
Level 2 Course	Elizabethan Theatre.	St Trinians / Production.	Parihaka / Land Wars.	Taane Mahuta / Matilda.
Level 3 Course	Epic / Brechtian Theatre.	Crucible / Production.	The Pohutakawa Tree by Bruce Mason.	Taane Mahuta / Matilda.

For the last few years the Year 12 and 13 have been taught together so the curriculum has alternated between the two. In 2017, we are following the Year 13 plan. The scripts used are also flexible, depending on what the pupils are suited to.

Live theatre depends on what is available here in Taranaki and wider a field. Traditionally the Year 10 and 11 pupils are given the opportunity to travel to Centre point Theatre in Palmerston North and the senior class (Years 12 and 13) travel to either Wellington or Auckland for a weekend overnighner. In the past we have been lucky enough to see 'Waiting for Godot', 'Wicked', 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night' and this year 'Matilda'.

There is also an option at each level for pupils to enter extra internals and externals for extension. Programmes are designed around the strengths of the pupils and Unit Standards in Theatre Technologies are also an option for some, especially in a production year.