



School in East Lothian delivering new Drama Units

Who are the Units being offered to?

S6 pupils, as an alternative to the Advanced Higher Drama Course and for pupils who have studied Higher Drama. Pupils are given 5 periods of contact time a week and 1 period of non contact time for self or group study.

Drama: Voice Skills and Drama: Movement Skills

From August to October we spent the time looking at two different Units: *Drama: Voice Skills* and *Drama: Movement Skills*. These were taught in 3 areas: Voice, Movement and Performance. The classes focused on skills needed to achieve the Outcomes and we looked at the theory behind the voice and body too. The skills they developed in their classes were then brought together in Performance classes where they focused on blending voice and movement together to create a performance. We looked at Duologues, Monologues, Scene Work and Greek Choral Work.

From October to December we worked on the major outcomes of both Units and pupils were asked to devise a production that met the requirements, they had to perform a group piece, monologues, using vocal and movement skills to fuse the devised piece together using various texts that were all connected with the theme conflict. Acting journals were brought into play here, thus introducing the *Drama: Acting Skills* Unit. Pupils linked their scenes and monologues with experimental movement using Laban technique and elements of physical theatre explored through Physical Theatre Company Frantic Assembly. They devised this using 4 of their 5 periods per week.

The end product, shown in mid December was a devised piece created by the class which lasted approx 40 minutes and met all major Outcomes for both Voice and Movement.

Drama: Acting Skills

From October to December pupils looked at the *Drama: Acting Skills* Unit and in particular the Acting Methods of Uta Hagen and Bertolt Brecht. From January – February pupils work on 2 contrasting acting scenes that they then showcase in February in front of an audience, building up skills for the final Unit of *Drama: Theatre Skills in Performance*. The Acting Journal plays a huge part in the independent learning of the pupil; it asks the pupil to evaluate, research and hone skills learnt previously and acts as communication between pupil and teacher.

Drama: Theatre Skills in Performance

From February until May pupils explore the world of theatre production. They are asked to use one of their monologues they worked on for voice and movement to audition for the final production. From there they are cast and workshop the play they are studying and explore characterisation, themes etc seeing how they can incorporate physical theatre, movement and voice into the piece. The teacher acts as Director and the continue using their Acting journals to reflect on their experience. They rehearse and stage the play in April.

May is used to tie up any outstanding outcomes, finishing off Acting Journals and meeting hand in dates.