



URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL
DRAMA DEPARTMENT
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Ursuline High School Drama Department is based in the St Angela Arts Centre. There are two fully equipped, air-conditioned drama studios. We also have extensive costume resources. Our school hall doubles as a performance space with a proscenium arch and it is fully equipped with full lighting rig and sound facilities including a six sennheiser radio microphone system. There is tiered seating for an audience of 180.

The Drama Department forms an important part of the Arts Faculty at Ursuline High School. The Faculty adapts a collegiate approach to curricular and extra-curricular delivery and members of the faculty support each within their own subject areas and also in others.

All students at KS3 have a weekly drama lesson and uptake at GCSE is strong. We follow AQA syllabus at GCSE and A Level follows the Edexcel syllabus. At KS3 students have a weekly Drama lesson of 50 minutes, GCSE students have three lessons a week and A Level students have five lessons with an additional timetabled independent learning session which they usually use to rehearse or carry out research as preparation for their next lesson.

Extensive use is made of ICT in order to facilitate the learning of the students. All students at KS3 and KS4 are able to opt into our school laptop/tablet scheme and have their own devices which they can use for research as well as videoing and reviewing their own performances.

The extra-curricular programme is popular and well-attended by the students. There is a weekly drama club for KS3 students and GCSE and A level students give regular performances throughout each academic year. There are frequent theatre trips for KS4 and KS5 students and visiting companies come to the school to perform to students in each Key Stage. The department has excellent links with our local theatres and the Lantern Arts Centre.

The department works with Roehampton University as part of their PGCE teacher training programme.

Our whole school productions are the centrepiece of our creative curriculum. Performances take place in the school hall at the end of each Christmas Term. The productions are very popular with over 250 students regularly assisting with

choreography, costume making, lighting, set making, sound design, stage management, front of house as well, of course, as being in the cast.

The legacy and popularity of our performances have led to sold out performances in recent years of 'Sister Act', 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' and last year 'Shrek the Musical'.