

TRING SCHOOL DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Drama at Tring School is incredibly successful and pupils reach high creative and personal standards.

In 2023, 75% of A-Level drama students achieved or exceeded their aspirational FFT5 target, which means that within our comprehensive cohort, 88% achieved A*-B, and 50% achieved A*-A. In 2022, an impressive 88% achieved A*-A, the best result in the school. Our track record with GCSE results is similarly strong. In 2023, 73% of students achieved or exceeded their target, with 55% of the cohort awarded grades 7-9 and 86% grade 5 and above.

Drama was the highest attaining subject in the school for grades 7-9. In 2022, 93% of GCSE students achieved their target or beyond, with 50%

of the cohort achieving grades 7-9, again placing the department at the top of the school. All of these results are well above the national average. As a result, students from all backgrounds secure excellent outcomes and secure places at prestigious institutions such as Bristol Old Vic Drama School and the University of Oxford.



There are three full time teaching staff, including the subject leader, two teachers and a part time technician/administrator. The subject is popular at GCSE and A-Level: there are currently two Year 11 groups, and one group in Years 10, 12 and 13. At KS3, pupils receive two lessons per fortnight.

ACCOMMODATION AND RESOURCES

Tring School has two Drama studios. One is a 'black box' space equipped with lighting rigs and computerised boards, sound systems and blackout facilities. There is a purpose built Drama dressing room, costume room and department office. We have additional use of a third activity studio in the new build and use of the school hall where we sometimes choose to perform school shows or exam performances. The annual school production is usually staged at the local Court Theatre.

Each Drama teacher has a Chromebook to use in lessons and we use Google Classroom to share practical work and resources with students and staff for assessment, evaluation and moderation. We also have a Twitter account [@TringSchDrama](https://twitter.com/TringSchDrama) to communicate with students and parents about everything that is going on in the department and keep them informed of other opportunities.

Our resources include classroom smart boards, projectors, video recording cameras, a lighting rig and operating board, sound systems, a wide range of costumes, props and set items and a well-stocked teaching library of play texts and theory books. In addition, we have a number of resources to enhance teaching such as a Drama Online subscription, Trestle masks and stage in a box.

CURRICULUM

At KS3, there is a comprehensive programme of study, and teachers are provided with detailed schemes of work and excellent resources. The department introduces a baseline level of skills in Year 7 and builds on this year on year. Schemes of work explore issues relevant to the pupils' lives and experience, and there is a good balance between exploration and presentation of Drama skills.

GCSE students follow the EDUQAS specification, receiving 5 lessons a fortnight. Tring School pupils are highly skilled and confident in lessons, approaching their studies with great enthusiasm. The schemes of work cover devising, acting, directing and design, script work, practitioners such as Bertolt Brecht, physical theatre and live theatre. Students are studying the set text Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah, adapted for stage by Lemn Sissay.

We have very high expectations of students at Tring School. They are encouraged to take ownership of their work, meet deadlines and maintain an atmosphere of respect in the classroom, whilst developing an appreciation of live theatre.



A Level students taking part in a Gecko Theatre Company workshop in February 2024.



A-Level Punch Drunk Inspired Reinterpretation of *Dancing at Lughnasa* by Brian Friel

A-Level students also study the EDUQAS Drama and Theatre specification, exploring a range of theatre styles and texts. Set texts include *Chimerica* by Lucy Kirkwood and *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen. Students are taught the theatre styles of Brecht, Stanislavski, Gecko, Punchdrunk, Headlong and Complicité. Students are influenced by theatre companies and practitioners to create their own practical performance work inspired by various methodology, skills and techniques. This is an exciting and creative process and students have produced exceptional work in this unit over the years.



Year 7 students using mask in Commedia dell'Arte



Year 8 Able and Ambitious club exploring Stage Fighting



A-Level Gecko Inspired Reinterpretation of *Chimerica* by Lucy Kirkwood



EXTRA CURRICULAR

There is a strong tradition of theatre visits, extra curricular workshops and opportunities at Tring School. Well attended Drama clubs run at lunchtime and rehearsals after school are common for both extra curricular and examination work. There is an annual House Drama Competition which is run in collaboration with Sixth Form students and is open to anyone who wishes to compete.

The Drama department annually stages a school production at the local theatre; these are positively received by the school and the wider community of Tring.

RECENT THEATRE VISITS (INCLUDING FORTHCOMING)

Mnemonic - Complicité (June 2024)

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The House of Bernarda Alba

The Ocean At The End Of The Lane

Life of Pi

The Ocean at the End of the Lane

Dancing at Lughnasa

Phaedra

Best of Enemies

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

East is East

Vassa

Nora: A Doll's House

All My Sons

Jesus Hopped the A Train

A Very Very Very Dark Matter

Hadestown

The National Theatre

The National Theatre

The National Theatre

Noël Coward Theatre

Milton Keynes Theatre

Milton Keynes Theatre

The National Theatre

The National Theatre

Noël Coward Theatre

Wembley Park Theatre

National Theatre

Almeida Theatre

The Young Vic

The Old Vic

The Young Vic

The Bridge Theatre

The National Theatre

WORKSHOPS

Gecko Physical Theatre Workshop

Workshop/Talk in Theatre from the University of Portsmouth

Frantic Assembly Physical Theatre Workshop

Trestle Theatre Mask/Commedia dell'Arte Workshop

Watford Palace Theatre Director's Workshop and Technical Theatre Day

National Theatre Brecht Workshop and Backstage Tour



PAST SCHOOL PRODUCTION TRAILERS

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1087860031641522176>

<https://twitter.com/twitter/statuses/955195299806498816>

<http://www.deetv.tv/#coram-boy>

<http://www.deetv.tv/#mid-summer-nights-dream>

<http://www.deetv.tv/#mother-courage-and-her-children-tring-school>

<http://www.deetv.tv/you-choose/schools/#the-lion-the-witch-and-the-wardrobe>

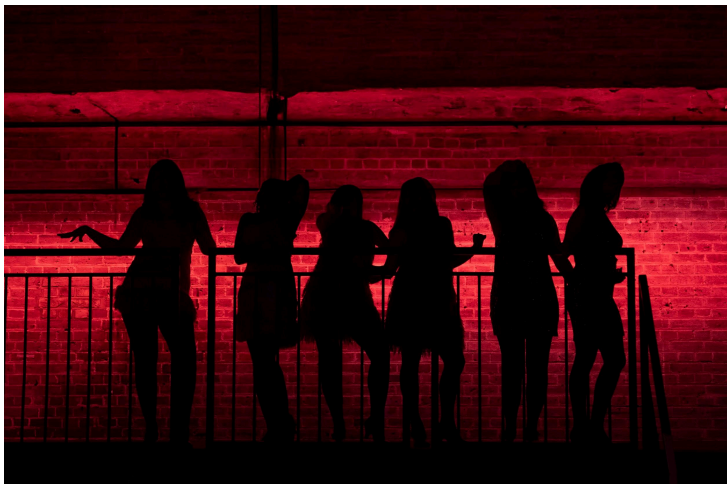
<http://www.deetv.tv/you-choose/schools/#spring-awakening>

<http://www.deetv.tv/you-choose/schools/#spring-awakening-preview>

<http://www.deetv.tv/you-choose/schools/#romeo-juliet>

School Production 2024

***Little Shop of Horrors* at The David Evans Court Theatre, Pendley Tring**



School Production 2023
Shakespeare in Love at Desborough Hall, Tring School



School Production 2022
The Arsonists at Desborough Hall, Tring School



School Production 2020

***Emil and the Detectives* at The David Evans Court Theatre, Pendley Tring**



School Production 2019

***Market Boy* at The David Evans Court Theatre, Pendley Tring**



School Production 2018
***Dr Faustus* at The David Evans Court Theatre, Pendley Tring**



Please contact Flora Langley, Head of Drama if you would like to arrange a preliminary visit.

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