Kettering Buccleuch Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

KS3 Drama Curriculum Map

Kettering Buccleuch Academy · United Learning · 2026-27

United in Community · Driven by Excellence · Guided by Integrity · Rooted in Kindness

Curriculum intent

At KBA, Drama is a place where every student can discover their creativity, build confidence and find their voice. From their very first lesson in Year 7 through to becoming GCSE-ready in Year 9, students develop a strong foundation in performance skills while exploring the exciting world of theatre.

Students learn and practise key drama techniques such as still image, thought-tracking, narration, role play and characterisation. As they progress, they apply these skills to a wide range of dramatic styles, texts and influential theatre practitioners, helping them grow as confident performers, collaborators and thinkers.

Character at the heart

Drama brings KBA's values to life every day. Through teamwork, rehearsals and performances, students learn to support one another and celebrate success together, building a strong sense of **community**. They are encouraged to challenge themselves, refine their skills and strive for **excellence** in all they do. Honest reflection and respectful feedback help students develop **integrity**, while our safe and supportive environment allows them to take creative risks with confidence, rooted in **kindness**.

By the end of KS3, students are not only prepared for further study in Drama but have also developed valuable life skills including communication, resilience, confidence and empathy that will support them far beyond the stage.

The curriculum map

Year 7 · Introduction to drama fundamentals

#	Unit	Key focus	Lessons
1	**Fairy Tales**	Introduction to drama: still image, thought-tracking, narration, role play	3
2	**Physical Theatre**	The body as a storytelling tool, opening with 'bodies as objects'	3
3	**Greek Theatre**	Chorus, ensemble and the origins of theatre (reflection sheets begin here)	3
4	**Shakespeare: A Midsummer Night's Dream**	Introduction to Shakespeare, language, status and the four worlds	6
5	**Melodrama**	Stock characters, exaggeration and audience interaction	3

Year 8 · Building technique and devising

#	Unit	Key focus	Lessons
1	**Intro / refresher**	Standalone re-entry: expectations, games, still image and narration	1
2	**Matilda**	Characterisation and the skill of acting and reacting, from a real script	3
3	**Shakespeare: The Tempest**	Power, magic and status through Shakespeare's language	6
4	**Commedia dell'arte**	Stock characters, lazzi and physical comedy	3
5	**Realism**	Naturalistic performance and an introduction to Stanislavski	4

Year 9 · GCSE-facing

#	Unit	Key focus	Lessons
1	**Intro / refresher**	Standalone re-entry for a cohort largely new to drama	1
2	**Shakespeare: Romeo & Juliet**	The play through an active stage-combat strand and key scenes	6
3	**DNA**	Script study of Dennis Kelly's play	3
4	**Political theatre**	Brecht and theatre with a message, themes informed by DNA	5
5	**Devising**	The culminating unit, a direct bridge into GCSE devising	3