**GCSE Drama – Year 10 2026 Cohort: Autumn Term Homework Statement**

Drama is a practical subject with a **unique approach to learning**; for this reason homework will – with good reason and fair judgement - vary in length and in the way it is undertaken. Sometimes homework will require more than one hour per week, and sometimes homework will not be set in order to balance out demands from other subjects, and more intensive times prior to production. Homework, or learning beyond lesson time, will be tailored to each individual, according to their strengths and needs. Here is a general plan:

**September 2024: Research on Stanislavski and preparation for the audition task**

**End of September to early March 2024**:

Your weekly homework will involve research, line learning and directed, face-to-face rehearsals, leading to a filmed, live performance to the public in early March, in the Atrium Theatre, Chesterton.

You will be cast in a role and become part of performing a play which will become your set text for the written exam (Component 3). We will choose one set text together from a range ('DNA' by Dennis Kelly, '1984' by Orwell, Icke and Macmillan and 'An Inspector Calls' by JB Priestley). The production will be directed by your teachers and will involve design elements (you may decide to be assessed as a designer rather than a performer). Being part of this will prepare you for all aspects of the GCSE course, which involves 3 components (devising, performing a published script; planning ideas and evaluating theatre).

**Auditions and Rehearsals will take place ideally on Mondays at 3.15pm from 23rd September onwards in the Drama Studio**. It is compulsory that you attend at least one hour of rehearsal as homework, but any further rehearsal is considered ‘extra-curricular’ and therefore is optional. The rehearsal may go on until 5.15pm. In the past, the majority of students have wished to attend the rehearsals in full, and this has naturally paid off!

The production week at the end of Feb/ in early March will be heavy, so after the production for a few weeks, you will not have homework. In lesson during this time, we will consider how we might respond to the written exam questions on the play, having practically studied the text with rigour through performance.

You may want to attend extra-curricular clubs or become involved in further Chesterton Youth Theatre productions with students from other year groups. Information on these will be published separately.

**Theatre Visits/Supporting Chesterton Drama**

It is hoped that as a GCSE drama student you will be keen to go to the theatre whenever the opportunity presents itself. At the time of writing, optional theatre trips are being arranged for this term and coming year. Such cultural enrichment will take place outside of your timetabled lesson, and will again require extra commitment to drama, but can be managed alongside other homework as a one-off event and enjoyable occasion.

From a compulsory stand-point, each year 10 student will be required to attend at least one live performance outside Chesterton over the course of the year, plus the performances of Year 11 students within Chesterton (so that you can see what you’ll be doing next year!). This will prove vital to your understanding of the course in terms of evaluation and analysis of theatre, which counts for part of the written exam you must take. More information will follow about this ‘homework’. When compulsory theatre is set for homework, rehearsals are cancelled for that week, so that you only have one task to do.

**Date for the diary:** Friday 18th October 6 – 9pm. Year 11 actors will be performing their Component 1 devised pieces that evening. Be there!

**To summarise:** from end of September until March we will all agree to attend an hour per week of rehearsal outside of lesson as homework. Some may choose to do extra! From Easter, homework will become more of an individual pursuit and further information will be sent. If you have any further questions or queries, please email Ms Marston on [smarston@cc](mailto:smarston@chesterton.cambs.sch.uk)c.tela.org.uk