**Homework in Year 11 GCSE Drama Cohort 2025 – Autumn 2024:**

Drama is a practical subject with a unique approach to learning; for this reason homework will 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 or at more intensive times prior to your component 1 or 2 performances or Component 3 mock exam. Homework, or learning beyond lesson time, will be tailored to each individual, according to their strengths and needs. A general plan:

**September – October 2024:** your weekly homework will be to attend small-group practice and character sessions, final rehearsals, preview and performance for Components 1 (devising). These sessions will be facilitated by teachers.The **devised performance examination** (C1) will take place on the evening of **Friday 18th October**. Each group will need to attend a tech on the Wednesday or Thursday evening directly before it. This performance is open to the community and each group piece should be around 15 - 25 minutes in length.

**November – December 2024**: Alongside the devised performance, you should be writing an accompanying evaluative portfolio. The portfolio is expected to be 2000 words or 10 minutes recorded speech. The first draft must be submitted by **Monday 18th November** of the Autumn Term at the very latest, and you will have lesson time during the month between the performance and this deadline to complete it as well as homework time. Over the final 4 weeks of the Autumn term, each student will receive a session of 1 – 1 guidance following their submission of a first draft so that they are able to submit the **final draft by 13th December at the very latest**: there is no compromise on this deadline.

**January – February 2025:** In December, whilst homework will not be set (other than to submit your C1 Portfolio), in lesson we will begin preparations for the **scripted extracts (C2) to be performed in early February (date to-be-confirmed by the Examiner)**. As part of Component 2, each student will be cast in a specific role(2) in 2 extracts from a published play (pre 2000). You will be expected to perform the extracts to a live audience and examiner. 1 – 1/Group - 1 rehearsals for this practical exam will take place in an agreed weekly slot for the month of January. We are also due to attend a residential trip or **‘drama retreat’ to Burwell House from 31st January – 2nd February 2025**, where rehearsals can be completed, and students can also enjoy some peaceful time.

**March – May 2025: 3 written mock exams for Sections A and B will be scheduled** (Component 3). Homework will obviously be to revise for these and indeed all class time will be dedicated to preparation for the final written exam. This exam - on ideas for directing, acting and designing ‘The Crucible’, then on evaluating live theatre – will require weekly revision including during Easter, both at home and with the teacher where requested. A tight and detailed schedule will be provided nearer the time.

**Theatre Visits/Supporting Chesterton Drama**

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, enjoyable event. It is highly likely that for the exam we will refer to ‘Dear England’ for our live theatre evaluation, but it may be that in the second part of the Easter term, a year 11 theatre trip will be arranged which we feel gives everyone a better opportunity to succeed. More information will follow about this. It is also urged that year 11 students come and support Year 10 actors who will be performing their production in early March.

It is unlikely that you will have time to perform in **extra-curricular** productions this year. However, Year 11 students have often still been involved with CYT. Meanwhile, we are inviting you to audition for ‘Romeo & Juliet’, to be intensively rehearsed and performed in late July with the Atrium Theatre Company. Details to be published separately. Meanwhile, students should feel confident that the workload will be relatively manageable considering what you have already taken towards GCSE drama in Year 10.

Information will continue to be provided via Teams. Please address any queries or questions to [smarston@ccc.tela.org.uk](mailto:smarston@ccc.tela.org.uk)