

# Weaverham High School Drama Department.



## Year 9 – Preparing for GCSE.

Welcome to your GCSE Drama preparation document. This is a subject that you were last taught in Year 8, although many of you have chosen to continue your studies, in Year 9, via extra-curricular activities. Some of you will have been to the theatre on a regular basis and know the roles of actors, theatre designers and theatre directors, some of you may have never been to see a live theatre performance and these terms will be very new to you....don't worry! They will quickly become familiar and you will soon be debating whether a Fresnel and or a Parcan lantern is most suitable to stage a scene! We all have a starting point and they will all vary. The important thing is to focus on the end goal....your GCSE! This document is designed to encourage you to start thinking about staging theatre. To consider ideas for devising theatre. To understand what makes a quality performance piece.

Below are some suggestions. They will very much help you in starting your course. They are mixtures of websites, books, documentaries, films and podcasts. We will be using these resources in lessons at some point in the next two years, as "snippets," where it helps to support or challenge your learning in lessons.



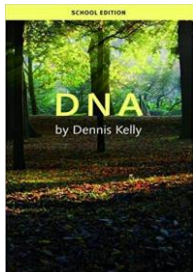
### Films, TV and documentaries

A great way to get ideas for devising theatre is through watching films, television shows and documentaries.

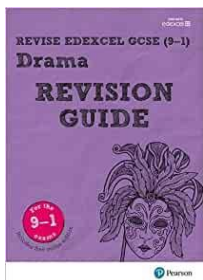
### Scripts and books



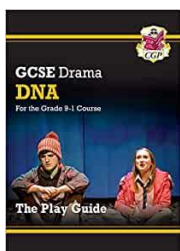
Scripts are a great way to develop your understanding of how plays are structured and the form, style and genre of performance pieces. Reading books about theatre, practitioners and performance will give you a great sense of all the factors that need to be considered to create a quality performance piece.



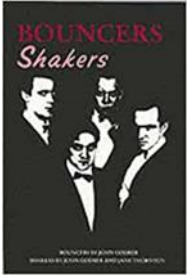
This play is the set text for component 3 of your GCSE. This unit is worth 40% of your overall GCSE. It is a very modern play and focuses on a group of teenagers who have become involved in a gang. Things go very wrong and the consequences are shocking. You need to be VERY familiar with this play.



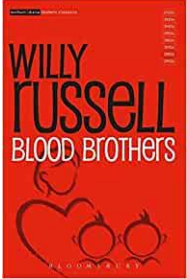
This helpful guide will offer practice questions for the written exam paper, support you in the development of ideas for your devised project and offer helpful tips towards writing your portfolio.



The component 3 written exam will focus on the set play text. This guide offers practice questions and papers. It helps you understand how to access the marks and what the exam board are looking for in your written responses.



Two fast paced, comical plays. Actors play multiple roles. Scenes from these plays would be ideal for the component 2 performance piece.



A fantastic play. There are great monologues and duologues, which could be used in the component 2 performance. It is a great example of how playwrights use form and structure and can support your own devised projects in component 1.

**The Web Sites of Organisations** – have a look at these web sites; check out their ideas on Drama and Theatre.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zkvm2sg>  
<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/learn/secondary-schools/playing-shakespeare-with-deutsche-bank/>  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=9&v=bgxcWne7uzg&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=bgxcWne7uzg&feature=emb_logo)  
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## Podcasts

If you enjoy listening to podcasts there are a lot out there that will help you prepare for your GCSE topics. Below are some examples of the Podcasts you might like to listen to:

- London theatre - featuring in-depth interviews with West End stars and key figures from the London theatre scene. From the rehearsal room to the dressing room, some of the biggest names in theatre discuss their experiences. - <https://www.londontheatre.co.uk/podcast>
- One minute theatre reviews – You will write a theatre review in your written exam. This is a great way of becoming familiar with the language and structure required of theatre reviews. <https://oneminutetheatreviews.co.uk/theatre-news-weekly-podcasts/>

Over the next two school years you will study **three** components. Component one is a **devised project**. It is teacher marked and moderated by an external moderator. Component two is a **practical performance**. This is marked by a visiting, external examiner. Component three is a **written exam** and takes place at the end of Year 11. The exam board for Drama is Edexcel.