

Drama in Alexandra College

Drama and Public Speaking do not just develop transferable skills of teamwork, communication, focus, presentation skills, problem solving, research, analysis, evaluation, self-control and confidence, but also, drama has a body of knowledge, practitioners, dramatists, and conventions going back over 3000 years. We believe it is one of the most important and vital things in the life of young people.

The Drama Department in Alexandra College is a vibrant and busy department with many activities and events throughout the school year. Students can choose from taking Speech and Drama or Public Speaking and Effective Communication classes, joining the school Drama Society (DramSoc), being part of the Senior Verse Speaking Choir, taking the Drama module in Transition Year, doing Public Speaking as a TY module. Those who take classes in Speech and Drama can also take part in our annual Festival of Poetry and Drama, get involved in The One Act Drama Festival in St. Andrew's College and enter twice yearly exams in a number of different disciplines.

Speech and Drama and/or Public Speaking Classes

(Extra curricular classes taken within the school day)

If your daughter opts to take extra curricular classes in **Speech and Drama**, or **Public speaking**, we would like to take a moment to let you know the content of the course that we follow and how the classes are run here in Alexandra College.

- The students have their Speech and Drama classes in a small group of no more than three or four students, during the school day. The class time, for first to fourth years, is rotated so that they will not miss more than one class in each subject every half term. Students in Fifth and Sixth year, come in pairs and attend class during a study/free period and therefore do not miss any timetabled classes.
- The students will take two exams each year, the exam syllabi we use are **The Leinster School of Music and Drama** (LSMD), part of Griffith College Dublin, and **The London Academy of Music and Drama** (LAMDA). The students can choose to take exams in Speech and Drama or Public Speaking and Effective Communication. Senior students in Transition, Fifth and Sixth year have the opportunity to take the level 3 exams with **LAMDA**, These exams are accredited within **the UCAS system** and so accrue points that can be used alongside Leaving Certificate points if applying abroad for University. Due to the large numbers taking exams in Alex, we are able to hold the exams in the school, during the year.
- All students who take classes in Speech and Drama take part in our annual '**Festival of Poetry and Drama**'. Held during springtime each year, this is the highlight of our drama year. All Speech and Drama students enter a series of competitions over the course of three days in Poetry Speaking, Solo Acting and Drama Duologues, Shakespeare, Public Speaking and Prose. We have two external adjudicators who come to judge these

competitions and parents and friends are invited to come and see the work they have prepared. There are a number of related talks and workshops that take place over the three days and the Festival culminates in a wonderful Festival Showcase on the evening of the final day.

Public Speaking

(As part of Transition year)

Public Speaking is included as a compulsory module for all students in Transition Year. In this module, the students work towards a Certificate Exam in Effective Communication for which they must prepare a C.V., letter of application for a job, undergo a mock interview and learn how to structure and deliver a talk/presentation. This exam is designed specifically for transition year students and the examining body is The Leinster School of Music and Drama.

DramSoc.

The Drama Society is a relatively new endeavour by the Drama Department, established in September 2013.

Open to all budding actors and performers, **The Junior DramSoc** is for **first years**, **The Intermediate DramSoc** is for **second and third year** students and **The Senior DramSoc** is for **fourth and fifth** years with workshops and rehearsals taking place after school once a week for an hour and a half.

The junior members of the society will workshop and rehearse a short play which will be performed half way through the year. It is a great way for the students to get to know each other in first year and to forge links across year groups.

The senior members work on specific performances and plays that they have tackled in the last few years have been challenging both in content and in performances. Recent highlights have included 'The Trojan Women' performed in The Mill Theatre Dundrum and 'Girls Like That' which was the runner up best production in The One Act Competition in St Andrew's College and which was also performed in the Henrietta White Centre.

The Verse Speaking Choir

Fifth and Sixth years can also be part of our '**Verse Speaking Choir**', which meets during lunchtime and has had wonderful success in performances over the last few years. A choral verse choir takes selections of poetry and prose and through a blending of voices speaking together, can bring a unique interpretation to literature. The choir was formed about ten years ago and has gone from strength to strength. We perform annually at the 'Concert for Kolkatta' and at various assemblies and special occasions in the school.

Recent Events

We have had such a busy year in 2016/17 with our most recent event being the TY production of the musical 'My Fair Lady' performed in the Henrietta White Centre.

Also in March 2017, our DramSoc showcased all its members by two wonderful plays. The Junior DramSoc performed their devised production called 'The History of the Stapler and Other

Stationary'. This was a fantastically inclusive play which centred around Roald Dahl's books and saw the Lecture Theatre become a cosy dorm room in Miss Persnickety's School for girls.

The Intermediate DramSoc challenged themselves to create a platform at sea in the school's concourse. The cast performed their play 'This Changes Everything' by Joel Horwood, 'in-the-round'. This was a thought provoking serious play which posed the question; 'Can you really change the world, when you've taken yourself out of it?'

Also in March we held our Festival of Poetry and Drama with a record number of 22 competitions and 204 entrants to the festival. A wonderful showcase evening of the prizewinners was held on the last evening of the festival and the standard of performance was exceptional.

2016/17 also saw a record number of medal winners in our drama exams and of nominations for the Excellence Award Competition in The Leinster School of Music and Drama. This nomination is based on their outstanding performance in their exam, and an outstanding 14 girls have been nominated so far this year.

We are also proud to be able to say that a huge numbers of senior students will be taking the challenging LAMDA exams again this year, with 34 girls, including 7 sixth years being examined in the first week of May by an extern examiner from London.

There are many ways that students can participate in drama activities in Alexandra College, please feel free to email me with any questions you may have.

Lynn Brehony
Head of Drama

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Follow us on Twitter: [@Drama_at_Alex](https://twitter.com/Drama_at_Alex) and Instagram: [alexdramsoc](https://www.instagram.com/alexdramsoc)





Speech & Drama and Public Speaking

Please indicate if you wish your daughter to take this option

All of these classes are shared in a small group at a cost of €600 per annum.

Speech & Drama	Public Speaking

Please contact Mrs Aideen Corr, Deputy Principal if you have any queries.

Note a student must commit herself for a full academic year and will be liable for a year's fees even if she does not complete the year's course.

Name of Student	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date