

Y8 PERFORMING ARTS CURRICULUM SEQUENCING

Year 8	HT 5	HT 6
Unit(s) (Tablet in 39week plan)	Epic Theatre in Performance: Brecht	Comedy & Social Commentary: Teechers by John Godber
Substantive (key knowledge) required for Y11	Students will study the key ideas of Bertolt Brecht's Epic Theatre, including the "alienation effect" (Verfremdungseffekt), where the audience is reminded they are watching a performance, and not immersed in realism. They will understand Brecht's aim to provoke critical thinking and social change, rather than emotional immersion.	Students will explore <i>Teechers</i> , a comedic play by John Godber that focuses on the experiences of three teachers in a secondary school. They will understand the play's themes of education, authority, and social class, and the comedic style Godber employs to critique the educational system.
Disciplinary (key skills) required for Y11	Students will experiment with Brechtian techniques in their own performances, such as direct address to the audience, using visible stagecraft (e.g., lighting, set), and employing songs or narration to comment on the action. They will learn how these techniques can make the audience question social issues and the world around them.	Students will analyse the characters, themes, and structure of the play, and explore how to deliver the script's humour, energy, and social critique. They will develop skills in portraying multiple characters (as the play features actors playing several roles), and experiment with using physicality and exaggerated performances in line with Godber's style.
Key Technical Vocabulary (To be modelled and deliberately practiced in context.)	Epic theatre Distancing techniques Self-narration Multirole Gestus Placards Suspend disbelief	Non-naturalistic Stylised movement Colloquial language Exaggerated characterisation Choral movement Minimalist set Fast paced Social commentary veiled in humour
Opportunities for Reading	The Betrayal by Brecht	Teechers by John Godber Our Day Out by Willy Russell

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Developing Cultural Capital (exposure to very best- essential knowledge and skills of educated citizens – appreciation of human creativity and achievement.)	Students explore the purpose of theatre and the function it can play in society as a vehicle to promote change and challenge injustice. Students explore Brecht's devices to achieve this with their own message.	Students will recognise the ways in which playwrights, directors, designers and performers communicate meaning through the medium of drama. They will examine the text's social and cultural reference, making connections with their own lives.
	• Raising pupil aspirations using engagement/aspirational language • Developing social and emotional competencies • Co-operative learning (structured group work) • Opportunities for visual, aural and kinaesthetic learning • Key terminology/ Aspirational quotes on display • Enrichment opportunities; school production, theatre trips & other performance opportunities	
Cross Curricular Links (Authentic Connections with other curriculum)	Life skills	English: Analysis scripts
	Students will have built on their skills learnt in year 7 & begin to develop an appreciation of theatre styles, genres & practitioners. They will further develop their use of semiotics & subtext when working with script. At the end of each unit students will be assessed on their ability to use the skills and performance strategies explored in each SOW in a performance environment.	