



Dear Parents and families,

*The Helen O'Grady Drama Academy brings you the*  
**GUILDFORD GRAMMAR DRAMA CLUB**

Welcome everyone! We are very excited to be continuing Drama Club in Term 4! Drama Club is designed to be a fun environment, with an important part of the process aimed at assisting students who attend, to become poised, effective communicators. Talking with your child about their drama lessons will also enhance and reinforce the life skills being encouraged in each session. Therefore, we would like to let you know about some of the aspects of our classes.

For students that have attended previously, the curriculum works like building blocks, extending their skills further with new activities taught every term. Long term attendance enables students to effectively correlate and apply these skills into other aspects of their schooling and everyday lives:

**LANGUAGE BUILDING EXERCISES**

We start each lesson with some free improvisation. This is where students become fully involved in a fictional situation, with the main aim being to stimulate enthusiastic verbal and physical participation in the lesson to come, and to encourage students to express themselves in **whole sentences**. These activities are done together as a whole class.

**SPEECH EXERCISES**

We also do specific speech training each week. Some areas included are:

- Projection:  
The first rule in verbal communication is to be heard! Students are encouraged to speak **clearly and confidently**, without shouting or straining.
- Character Analysis:  
Lines are taken from famous plays or films where each character is easily defined. The purpose of this exercise is for students to show **strong character skills** in a short sentence.
- Jaw Exercises:  
Students are encouraged to relax and drop their jaws on appropriate words during these exercises, which help to **avoid mumbling and produce clear, audible speech**.
- Articulation:  
Students are encouraged to ensure that **all initial and final consonants** are firmly and correctly placed encouraging clarity of speech.
- Volume Control and Expression:  
Students are asked to deliver a series of short statements showing **change in volume and expression, copying the inflection and tone exactly**. Our aim is to teach our students how to be audible at different volumes.

**CREATIVE MOVEMENT**



Our movement focus, helps to **develop coordinative skill** and an increased awareness of how students can use their body to **express emotion and attitude** as a means of reinforcing verbal communication. We introduce Dance Dramas at various intervals, which involve students performing a specific story while music dictates the dramatic qualities. Students are encouraged to **develop and extend their own ideas** through movement. These segments are fun, and can also take children out of their "comfort zone" to explore their creativity!



## **IMPROVISATION**

Our programme includes **creative, improvised drama**, which is always very popular! Through small group and whole class advanced improvisation activities, students learn more about the formal structure and form of language, plot development, character analysis and basic production skills, as well as team work, sequencing skills, memory retention, lateral thinking and listening skills! There is always lots of room for students to add their own imaginative ideas and characterisation to the story.

## **MINI-SCRIPTS AND SCENE STARTERS**



We work on various forms of dialogue development which give students the opportunity to **verbalise individually and also enable the teacher to assess each student's development**. In Mini-Scripts, Scene Starters, Duologues etc, the students are given starting lines and then work in pairs to develop a short piece of work relating to a specific idea. The scripts require students to interpret the scene and add characterisation and style for performance, and in many cases, allow students to add in their own creativity by beginning or resolving the piece. This segment encourages students to develop skills on an individual basis developing confidence and skills in working towards solo performances, auditions, interviews etc.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or email if you have any questions about our programme.

We look forward to continuing our fun programme with the students of Guildford Grammar and meeting you and your children very soon!

Kindest regards,

*Merylena Sulak*

**MERYLENA SULAK** B.A.Ed  
**PRINCIPAL**



As heard in interviews on:



**For further information please contact Principal, Merylena Sulak:**

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