



CHELTENHAM
LADIES'
COLLEGE

SIXTH FORM ENTRY IN SEPTEMBER 2026

A LEVEL THEATRE STUDIES AND IB THEATRE

It is not necessary to have any previous academic knowledge of Drama to take the A Level Theatre Studies or IB Theatre course at College, but an interest in performing or designing and watching live theatre is essential.

The A Level Theatre Studies course requires a good level of performance and/or design skills. Students are required to carry out research into a range of practitioners and theatre companies and be prepared to apply what they have researched to their practical work. There is a requirement to study two set texts, analysing possible interpretations for a modern audience in relation to the original context. Students are also expected to watch a range of live theatre performances during the course and consider how these have influenced their own work. There is an emphasis on group work although each student is assessed individually. The ability to write essays under exam conditions is also a requirement.

Students who are successful on both the higher and standard level IB Theatre courses are those who are willing to learn about a wide range of different forms of world theatre and to develop both performance and design skills. There is a requirement to undertake individual research into practitioners, theatre companies and world theatre practices, as well as contribute to a group devised performance. Students are also expected to watch a range of live theatre performances during the course and consider how these have influenced their own work. There is no final examination but there is written coursework for all components.

Higher level IB Theatre students are required to produce an individual performance based on their research into a chosen practitioner.

For the 1-hour entrance paper, you will need to have watched at least one piece of live theatre, which can be an online streamed performance.

You should be prepared to discuss several aspects of theatre performance in response to an open-ended question. This may include descriptions of acting, design elements, interpretation of character or text, and audience reaction.