

# PGCE Secondary English with Drama

## Why Train with us?

Your initial training year on a PGCE course will be a busy, challenging and tiring one in many ways but we know it will also be a rewarding one. It is a time when your skills, knowledge and understanding will develop and your attitudes could change. It is also a chance to develop some strong, supportive and sometimes lasting friendships. At any rate, you will definitely be taking the initial crucial step in what could well be a lifelong career.

So, an important year all round and one in which you will be guided, supported and assessed by a partnership of professional educators based in College and in your placement schools who will strive to enlighten you on the rationale behind and processes of teaching and learning in English and Drama; track and help you to address your individual needs; and, help you to set appropriate targets for the development of your skills, knowledge and understanding. Obviously, however, the most important element in this process is you. It will really help if you approach all aspects of the course, in College and in schools, with a positive, enthusiastic attitude, have resilience when times get tough, try to be perceptive about what is needed and have a sense of humour on some occasions too.

We believe that this course will provide you not only with the support you might need to achieve all of this but also with the grounding that will allow you to learn and keep on learning throughout your career in teaching.

## About this course

The formal aim of the English with Drama course is informed by the general programme aim which is: to support the development of effective, creative and innovative secondary school teachers of English and Drama, who aspire to exceed the relevant standards, take responsibility for their own professional development as reflective practitioners and strive to achieve excellence.

In addition to this aim, we seek to:

- Deliver the course and any assessments in an open and transparent manner
- Be supportive, positive and fair
- Value you as an individual
- Respond to your individual needs
- Be constructively critical in order to help you make progress
- Model good educational practice in the delivery of the subject studies module
- Involve you actively in your own and others' learning

Aspects of English and Drama to be addressed include:

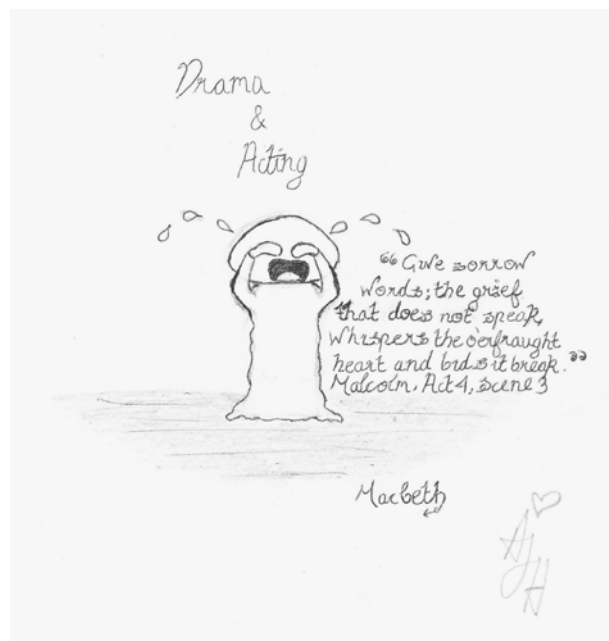
- The nature of English and Drama as curricular subjects

- A brief history of English and Drama teaching and possible future developments
- English GCSE AS and A2 syllabi and the National Curriculum requirements for English and Drama; alternative curricular routes
- The National Literacy Strategy
- A range of teaching methodologies, techniques and pedagogies appropriate and specific to the teaching and assessment of English and Drama
- Current issues in the teaching of English and Drama
- Current initiatives and research impacting on English and Drama in school contexts
- How learners learn to speak, listen, read and write and make progress through their skills, knowledge and understanding
- How English and Drama lessons and schemes of work are planned
- How to use a variety of formative and summative assessment practices in English and Drama
- How individual needs can be catered for within English and Drama, including EAL learners, gifted and talented learners and those with specific literacy difficulties
- How cross-curricular themes and skills can be reinforced and developed within English.

## Special features of the course

The word 'with' denotes the inclusion of Drama as a significant element in the programme, comprising approximately a quarter of taught time. It is included in order to

- Effectively prepare for the teaching of Drama within English as a requirement of the National Curriculum for English
- Support you in using Drama to enrich the teaching of English
- Offer you the possibility of teaching in a Drama Department at KS3



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The subject module has been structured so that we cover areas that relate to and complement what is being covered in the professional sessions that week, as well as spending time on areas that are important specifically to English and Drama teaching.

In addition to this, areas in the subject skills, knowledge and understanding audit highlighted as needing development by the group or certain members of it can be addressed in our subject time, sometimes as starters and sometimes as whole sessions. Being flexible in this way is a good way of being responsive to your developing needs and has proved very useful in the past. You will also get the opportunity to address the particular aspects of English Language, Literature and Drama you individually need to work on in the tasks and assignments you undertake.

### **Teaching and assessment methods**

A variety of teaching, learning and assessment strategies will be used including discussions, presentations, teaching simulations, pair work, whole group work, independent work, use of the virtual learning environment, tutorials and practical sessions.

There is much that needs to be explored within this curriculum area as we will be covering aspects of English Language and Literature at KS3 and KS4 and Drama at KS3 as well as looking at what is important in the Key Stages before and after.

Keys to success include the ability to make the most of all the learning opportunities that come your way during the year and being prepared to try new things, regardless of your previous knowledge and experience.

### **More information**

For more information about the programme, course content or applications, please contact The Academic Registry on 01522 583658 or email [info@bishopg.ac.uk](mailto:info@bishopg.ac.uk)