

Overview of Drama Curriculum for Year 7 and 8

Curriculum Overview: Year 7 and 8 Drama

Introduction

In response to the absence of a national curriculum for drama, our school has meticulously designed a bespoke curriculum for Year 7 and 8, drawing on insights from local schools and outstanding academies. Our curriculum is structured to align closely with the English national curriculum, emphasising the development of stagecraft skills that significantly enhance students' understanding and proficiency in both drama and English. The curriculum also serves as a preparatory pathway for the BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Musical Theatre offered in Year 10.

Curriculum Structure and Approach

Students engage in one drama lesson every two weeks, supplemented by a comprehensive homework assignment per half term that deepens their understanding of current topics through comprehension and multiple-choice questions. The curriculum is organised around three main strands: creating, performing, and working from a text. Each strand integrates specific end points and component knowledge that are systematically assessed to ensure progression and mastery.

Year 7 Curriculum

Topic 1: Improvisation

Students explore improvisation techniques aimed at enhancing their performance and character development skills. Key end points include:

- Performing to an audience with confidence and projection.
- Creating and sustaining character roles through body language and facial expressions.
- Providing constructive peer feedback and setting improvement targets.

Topic 2: Devising Using British Values

Focuses on devising original drama pieces that reflect British values, emphasising:

- Creating still images and thought-tracks to convey emotions and narratives.
- Crafting dialogue that is integral to character development and storytelling.
- Developing skills in peer feedback and setting improvement targets.

Topic 3: Working from a Text (Frankenstein)

Students learn to interpret and perform from scripted texts, covering:

- Understanding characters' dialogue and stage directions.
- Performing scripted text with clarity and projection.
- Analysing performance skills and techniques through peer feedback and self-reflection.

Year 8 Curriculum

Topic 1: Advanced Improvisation

Builds on Year 7 skills with a focus on advanced techniques and multi-dimensional character portrayal, including:

- Performing with awareness of stage space and audience interaction.
- Using subtle shifts in posture, vocal modulation, and facial expressions to convey character intentions.
- Offering detailed peer feedback and setting precise improvement targets.

Topic 2: Devising Based on Different Stimuli

Explores diverse stimuli to create sophisticated drama pieces, integrating:

- Utilising tools and improvisation to workshop character and narrative development.
- Crafting dialogue that enriches character portrayal and narrative depth.

- Assessing performance skills and techniques for impact and audience engagement.

Topic 3: Text (The Tempest)

Continues to refine textual interpretation and performance skills, focusing on:

- Annotating scripts with blocking, character intentions, and creative annotations.
- Performing scripted text with artistic flair, considering pace, tone, and character journey.
- Identifying and applying advanced performance skills and techniques, informed by peer feedback and self-assessment.

Mastery Model and Progression

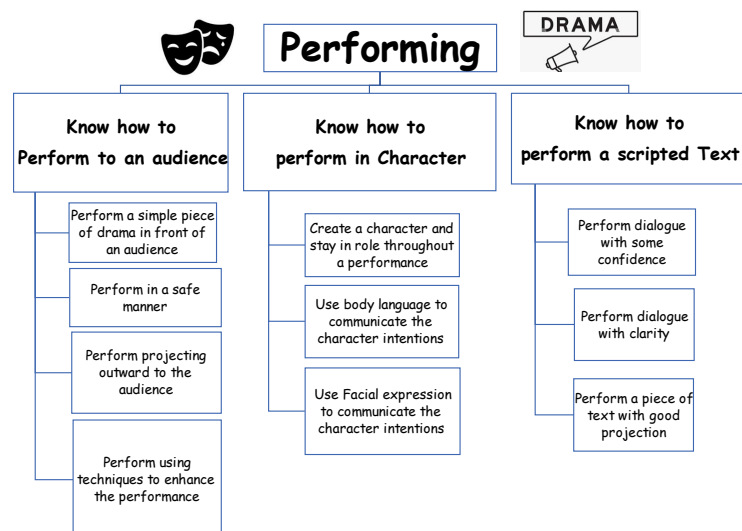
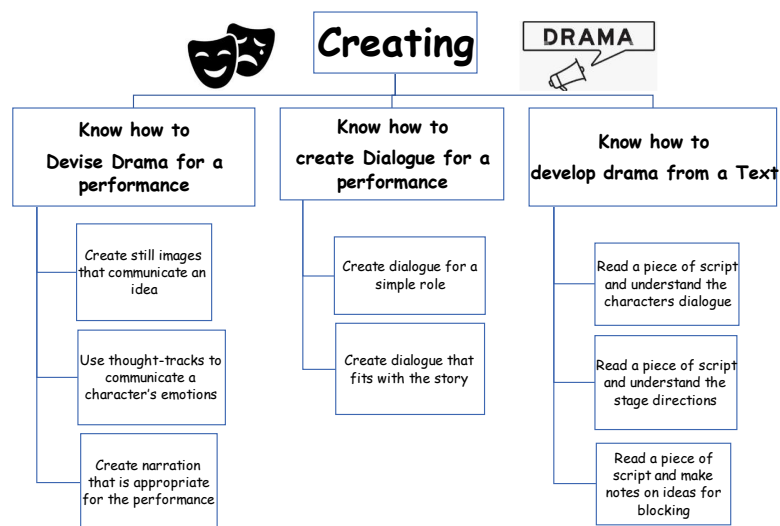
Our curriculum operates on a mastery model, emphasising continuous skill development and increasing challenge across each year group. By progressively building on foundational skills and techniques, students gain a thorough understanding of drama's technical and creative aspects, preparing them not only for academic success but also for practical applications in future theatrical endeavours.

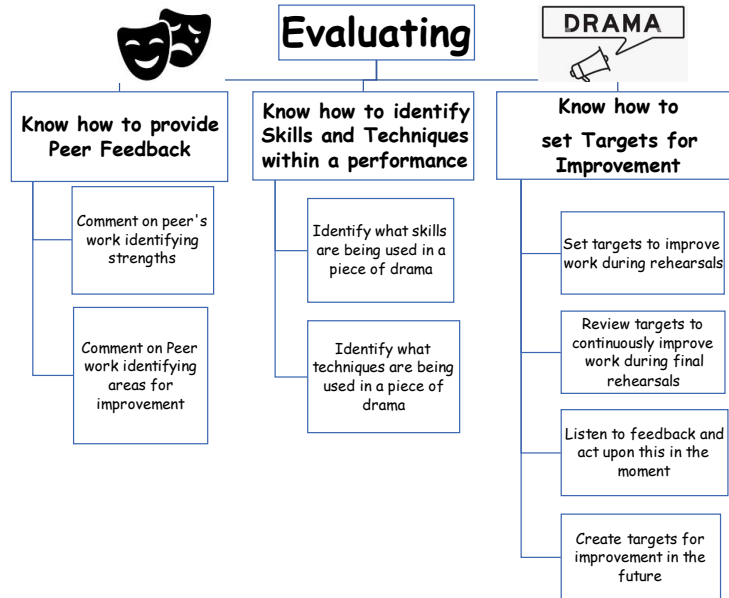
Through our tailored curriculum for Year 7 and 8 Drama, students engage deeply with stagecraft, performance, and textual analysis, underpinned by strong links to the English national curriculum and alignment with BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Musical Theatre. This approach not only broadens students' artistic and academic horizons but also equips them with essential skills in communication, creativity, and critical thinking that are vital for their holistic development.

The strands of creating, performing, and working from a text in our Year 7 and 8 Drama curriculum were meticulously crafted to provide a comprehensive framework that addresses the core skills and techniques essential for student development. This approach began with thorough research into the offerings of local schools and prominent academies, coupled with

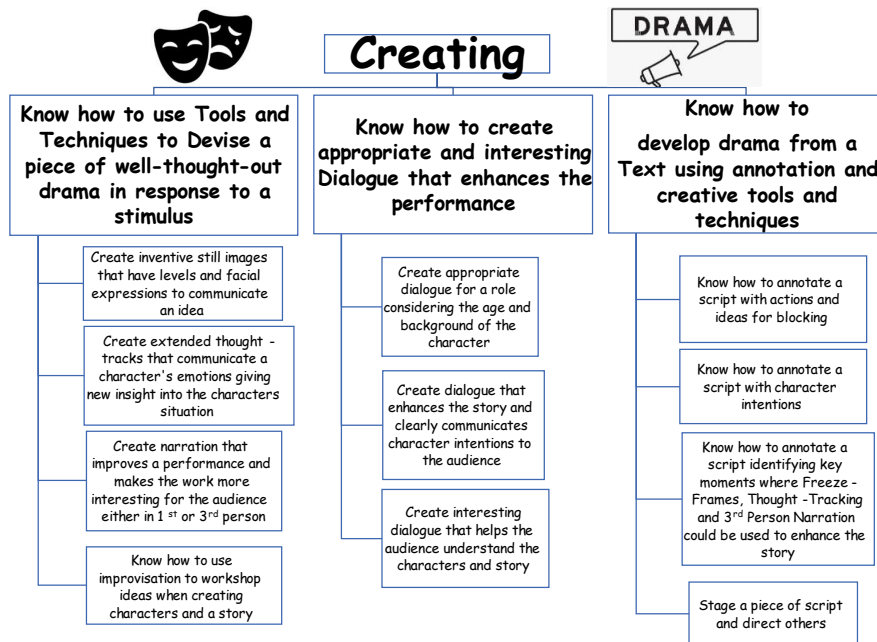
an analysis of national educational standards, particularly the English curriculum. By synthesising these insights, we identified key competencies such as character development, audience engagement, script analysis, and peer collaboration as foundational pillars. Each strand was then structured to ensure a sequential progression of skills, from foundational concepts in improvisation and devising to advanced techniques in character portrayal and script interpretation. This methodical approach not only guarantees a cohesive and balanced curriculum but also aligns closely with our overarching goal of fostering a deep understanding of stagecraft that supports students' broader academic and artistic growth.

Year 7





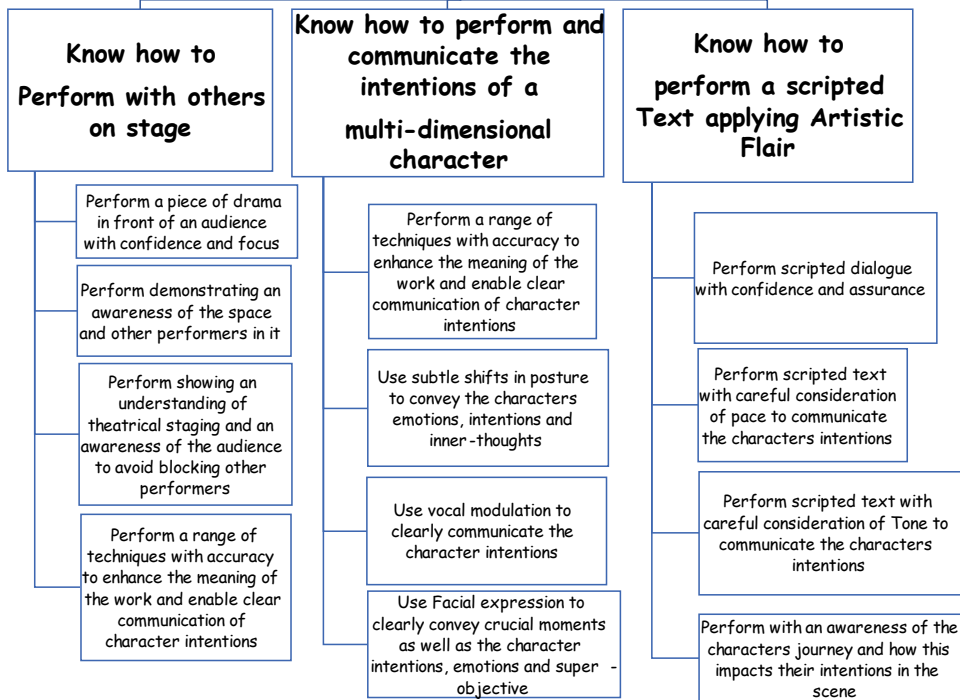
Year 8





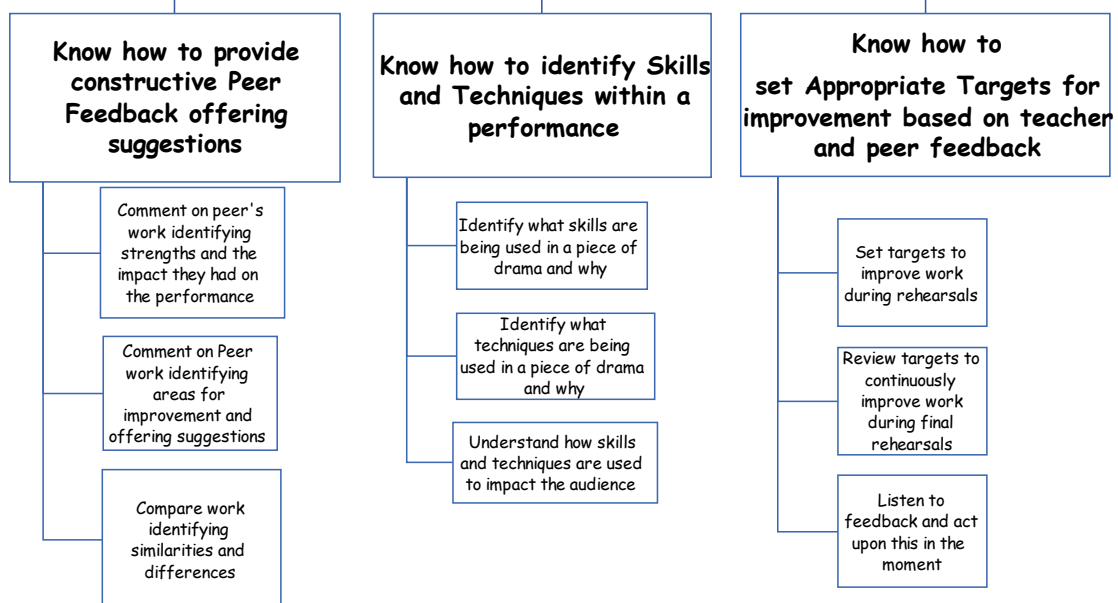
Performing

DRAMA



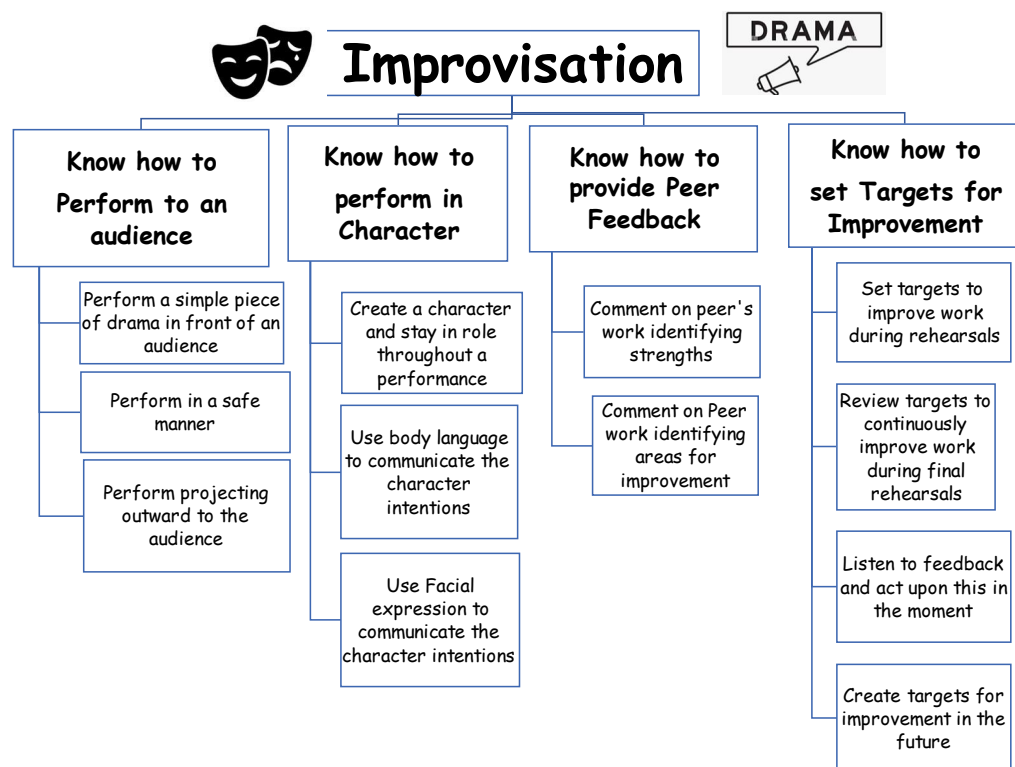
Evaluating

DRAMA



Building upon these foundational strands, we utilised this framework to construct three distinct topics for each year group, fostering a mastery approach that supports continuous skill development and increasing complexity. Each topic was carefully designed to revisit and reinforce key skills while progressively increasing the challenge level. For instance, in Year 7, topics such as improvisation, devising using British values, and working from a text (Frankenstein) were crafted to introduce fundamental techniques in character creation, narrative development, and scripted performance. These topics establish a baseline proficiency level while setting clear benchmarks for improvement and mastery. In Year 8, the topics of advanced improvisation, devising based on diverse stimuli, and working from a text (The Tempest) build upon these foundations, challenging students to apply more sophisticated techniques, delve deeper into character psychology, and explore nuanced interpretations of text and performance. This structured progression ensures that students not only deepen their understanding and proficiency in drama but also develop resilience and confidence in tackling increasingly complex theatrical challenges throughout their academic journey.

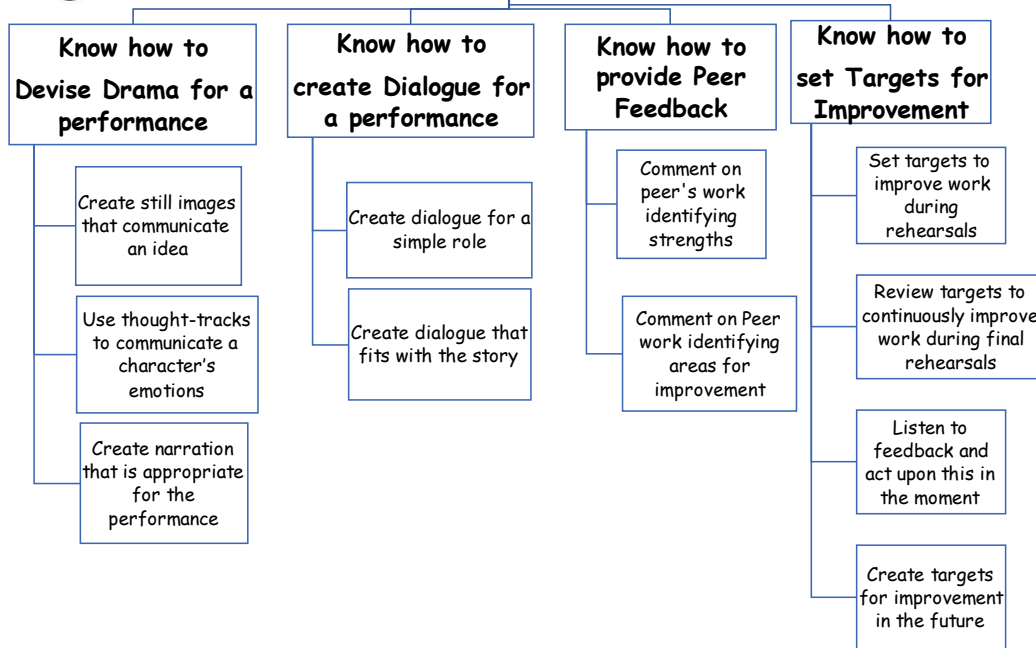
Year 7





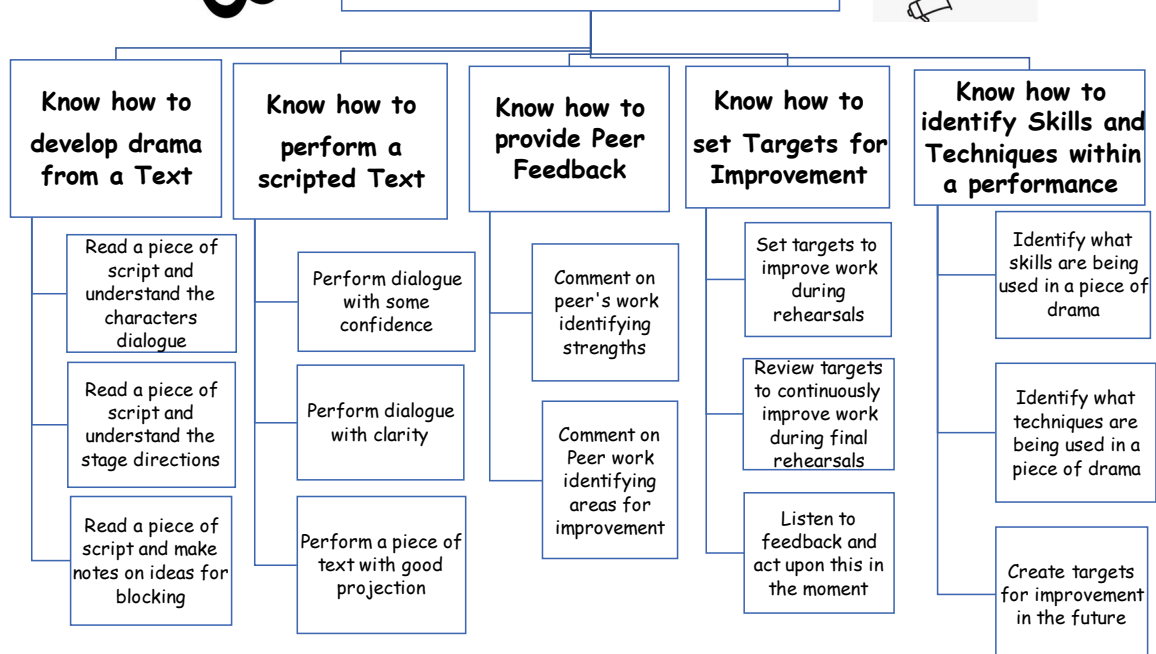
Devising-British Values

DRAMA

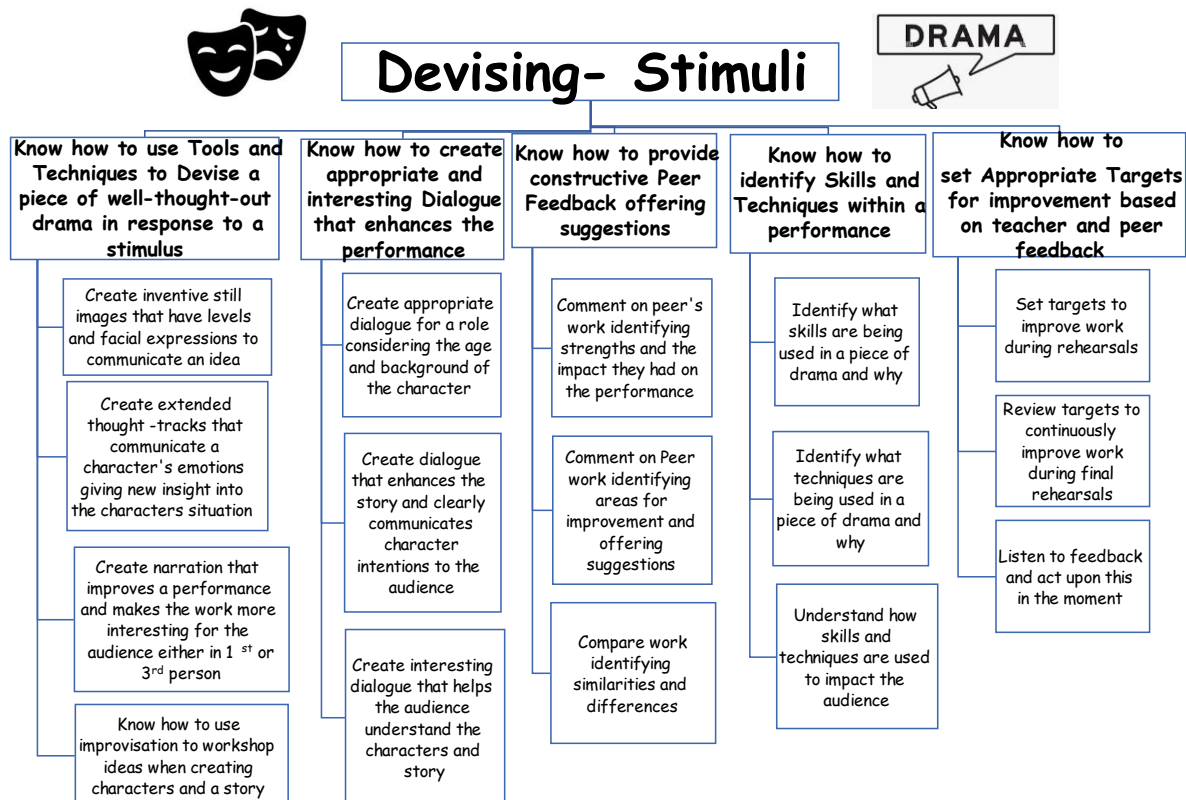
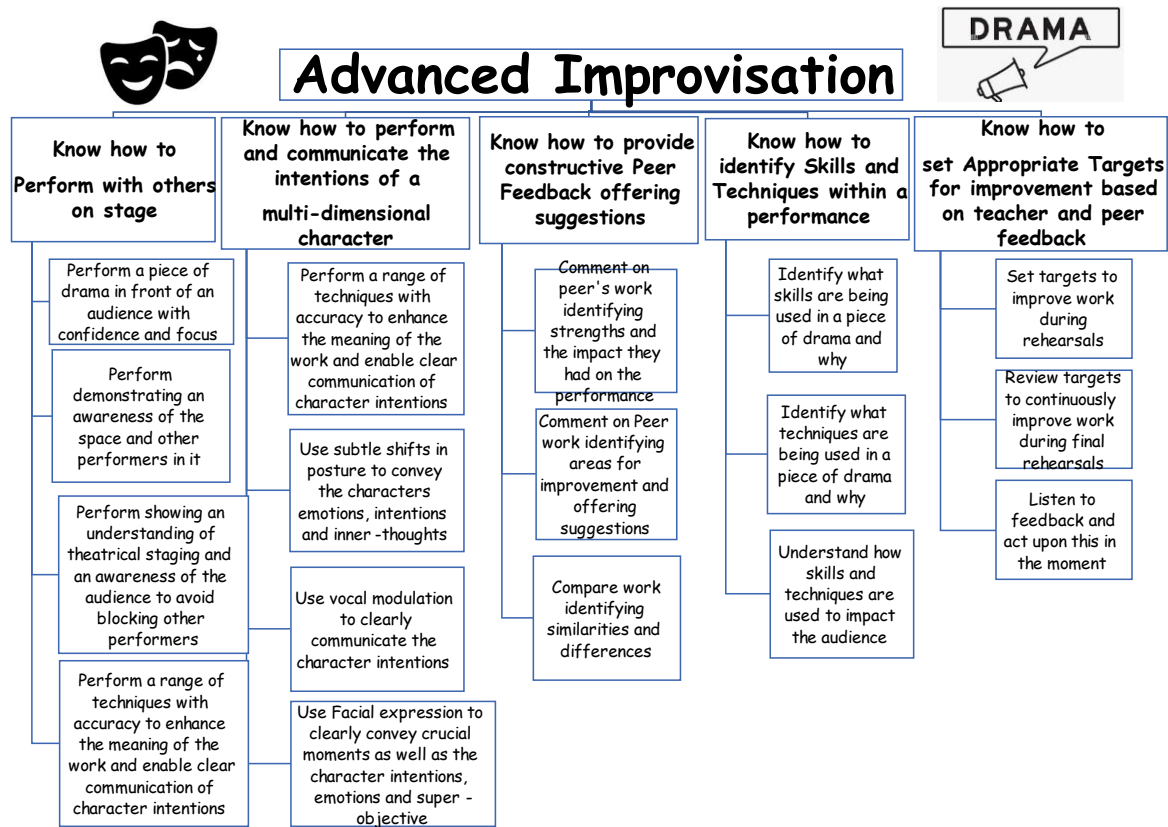


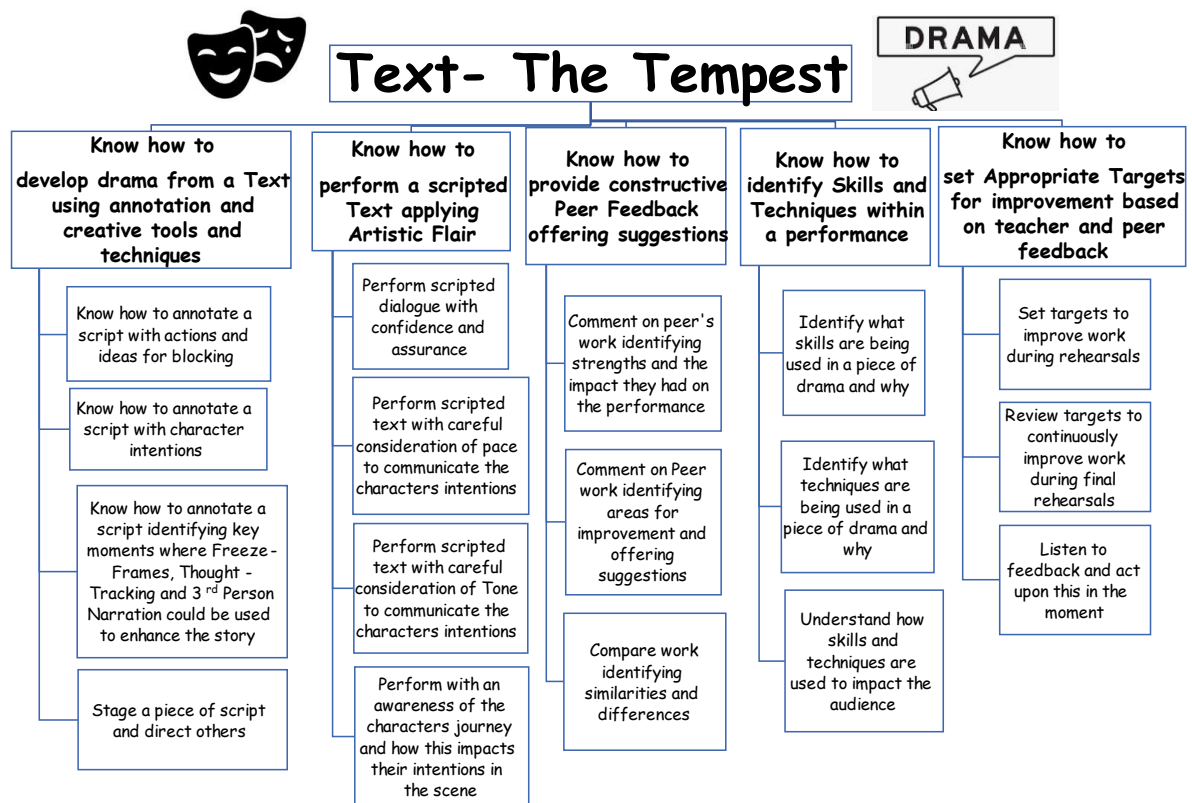
Text-Frankenstein

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Year 8





This overview is structured to clearly outline the scope, objectives, and educational rationale behind the Year 7 and 8 Drama curriculum, emphasising its integration with broader educational goals and future pathways in performing arts.