

Speech and Drama Welcome Letter for Parents 2023-2024



Thank you for signing your son up for Speech and Drama lessons at Bedford Prep School. These lessons are proven to be superb for both the budding actor and for those boys just in need of a confidence boost. It challenges whilst learning new skills and provides performance opportunities alike.

The Speech and Drama team are very much looking forward to meeting the boys and getting to work on what we hope will be a stimulating and enjoyable year. Lessons will take place in either one of the two Speech and Drama rooms in Palmers (P1/P3).

Weekly lessons

Your son (unless specific arrangements have been agreed by the Speech and Drama team), will have his lesson during the school day. This will be on a rotational basis to ensure that your son does not miss the same lesson consecutively, or more than once per half term (please contact Speech & Drama team if this happens). Boys in Y3/4 will hopefully have a fixed time each week. Please note once the boys enter year 5 they will not automatically have a fixed lesson. If your sons lesson was fixed last year and you would like to continue this then please send a new request to Mrs. Turton, at the beginning of term.

A new timetable will be drafted each week and will be uploaded:

- to the Speech and Drama folder on Firefly; please find this by following the link (<http://elearning.bedfordschool.org.uk/psactivities/speech-and-drama> - you will need to use your son's login details to access the page.
- to Notices - available on both Parent/Pupil portal.
- Hard copies available on the Speech and Drama board outside the Speech and Drama teaching rooms.
- On the notice board in the Wells building.

We will endeavour to have these timetables posted by the Saturday lunchtime of the previous week, at the very latest. If your son cannot attend a class, for whatever reason, please ensure that this is communicated to one of the Speech and Drama teachers at the earliest opportunity so that we can reschedule or move classes accordingly. If there is less than 48 hours' notice, we cannot guarantee a new lesson time, although we will of course aim to do so.

Equipment

Previously the boys have been issued with a Speech and Drama exercise book which is used as a communication tool to give the boys' feedback after lessons and for parents to feedback and/or share any queries. This will continue.

Payment

Payment for Speech and Drama occurs at the end of each term and will appear on your son's blue bill. The cost for the lessons per term is £229. This covers 30 lessons over the year inclusive of the Bedfordshire Festival and LAMDA week. Entry to both the Bedfordshire Speech and Drama Festival in the Spring term (between £5-£15 per entry) and LAMDA exams in the Summer term (between £25-£55 per exam) will also be added to the blue bill at the appropriate time.

Notice

If, for whatever reason, your son wishes to discontinue lessons you are required to give a full term's notice, as per the School's policy for extracurricular activities. In addition, if you are receiving this letter

and have already informed us of your notice then please let us know as soon as possible and we will make the correct amendments.



Course Structure

Please see below an outline of the Course Structure for the year ahead.

This is subject to change due to uncertain times ahead however this will give you an indication of our plans and we will let you know if and when this changes.

Autumn Term:

- Welcome to S&D!
- **SPEECH & DRAMA SKILLS:** During the course of this term we will be exploring drama games, building trust and confidence, and experimenting with some of the following ideas:
Characterisation, physicality, storytelling, devising, improvisation, making a speech, non-verbal communication, scripted scenes, monologues and duologues, performing poetry.
- During the latter part of the term we will also discuss and decide what category your son would like to perform in for the Bedfordshire Festival in the Spring Term.
- We will then spend time carefully selecting appropriate performance pieces for the class/classes he has chosen to enter.
- LAMDA examinations will be discussed and pieces chosen.

Spring Term:

- Rehearsals for Festival pieces will form the basis of this term's work, alongside continuing to develop a variety of Speech & Drama Skills.
- Rehearsals for LAMDA pieces and learning will take place. Memory Techniques will be explored. These skills are transferable to other subjects and prove to build confidence when learning texts.
- LAMDA examination theory will be introduced and discussions around the theory will take place. We will start to work on the questions and understanding the theory in relation to the examination pieces.
- Towards the end of the term the boys will take part in a performance at the Corn Exchange in Bedford as part of the Bedfordshire Music, Speech and Drama Festival: 2nd – 9th March 2024. Please note: You will be responsible for the transportation of your son to and from the venue.

Summer Term:

- Continue to rehearse performance pieces for LAMDA examinations.
- Rehearse the theory/technical knowledge associated with the LAMDA exams.
- **LAMDA EXAMS.** Examination by an external LAMDA examiner will take place week commencing 20th May 2024. Exact times and dates will follow nearer the time. If you ever need to contact us, please email Mrs.Turton (pturton@bedfordschool.org.uk). We look forward to working with your son!

Kind regards,

Patsy Turton

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