# Home-School Learning Collaboration – Drama

**ERDINGTON ACADEMY**

| Topics in this cycle:<br>Comedy | Taught:<br>Autumn 2/Spring 1 | Year Group:<br>Year 8 |
|---|---|---|
| **Key knowledge/concepts to be learnt ('Tell me about….')** | | **Websites/blogs/YouTube links and further reading to deepen and consolidate learning** |

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| **Exploration of the key conventions of slapstick comedy.**<br>- What are the key conventions of a comedy performance?<br>- Students will understand the different characteristics of slapstick comedy; exaggerated violence, chases, practical jokes, extreme physicality, slip and collisions, unrealistic action, pratfalls.<br>- Students will devise a performance using the key conventions of slapstick comedy.<br><br>**Exploration of the four types of comedic characters and how can you apply these to a performance.**<br>- What are the four types of comedic characters?<br>- Explanation of the four comedic characters and their roles: the fool, the one liner, the sarcastic, and the comedian.<br>- Students will devise a performance using the four different types of comical characters.<br><br>**Understanding the term improvisation and how to improvise on stage.**<br>- What skills and techniques are required for improvised comedy?<br>- Explanation of the skills required: attention, accepting, energy and play.<br>- Students will explore and take part in a range of different improvision tasks to develop and practice the technique.<br><br>**Exploration of parody/spoof comedy and how to turn an original production into a spoof/parody performance.**<br>- What is spoof comedy? How can we transform a famous film into a spoof comedy on stage?<br>- Students will create their own spoof comedy of a famous movie using the key conventions of a comedy.<br><br>**Exploration of the different stock character and how stereotypes are used to create and build characters.**<br>- What is a stock character? How can we create a stock character for comical effect?<br>- Explanation of the different stock characters within a pantomime/film - the hero, the villain, the damsel in distress, joker/clown and the dame.<br>- Students will create a short scene that depicts the characters in the show 'The Jeremy Kyle Show'. | - Examples of slapstick comedy: Home alone<br>[Home Alone (1990) - Booby Traps Scene (3/5) \| Movieclips - YouTube](#)<br>[Judo Bean \| Funny Clip \| Classic Mr.Bean - YouTube](#)<br><br>- Example of the each of the different comedic characters:<br>Comedic:<br>[The Emperor's New Groove (2000) Scene: Jaguars/Pacha to the rescue! - YouTube](#)<br>Sarcastic:<br>[Squidward being the most iconic Spongebob character for over 14 minutes (seasons 1-3) - YouTube](#)<br>Fool:<br>[Dumb & Dumber: G'day Mate (Intro Scene) - YouTube](#)<br>One liner:<br>[best of thor - YouTube](#)<br><br>- Example of spoof comedy:<br>[Superhero Movie - Trailer - YouTube](#)<br><br>- Examples of stereotypes:<br>[The Jeremy Kyle Show: a dark and dangerous form of entertainment - YouTube](#) |

| Key Vocabulary and Definitions To Be Learnt | | What Will The Assessment Look Like? |
|---|---|---|
| **Slapstick comedy** | A style of humour involving exaggerated physical movement, violence that exceeds the boundaries of normal physical comedy. | *The way we assess at KS3 is currently undergoing changes due to the introduction of the November and June assessment weeks.* |
| **Characteristics** | A feature of quality belonging to a person and/or character. | *Students will complete several tasks where they will demonstrate competency in a key area, from which class teachers will determine what gaps in knowledge or skills need closing in the next unit of work.* |
| **Comedic characters** | Stereotypical characters seen within a comedy performance. | |
| **Exaggeration** | Exaggeration is the representation of something as more extreme or dramatic than it really is. | |
| **Spoof comedy** | A remake of a book, film or play created for comical purposes. | *For this unit of work, students will learn and experiment with a new style and genre in acting, they will then use knowledge accumulated over the lessons to assist them with the current knowledge part of their assessment in the summer.* |
| **Accent** | Accent refers to a particular way of talking and pronouncing of words. | **Family Learning Opportunities** |
| **Improvisation** | The playing of dramatic scenes without written dialogue and with minimal or no predetermined dramatic activity. | |
| **Blocking** | Blocking is the process of deciding where the actors stand and move during a scene. It is the role of the director to block out the scene. | - Watch a comedy and try to spot the different conventions. |
| **Stock characters** | A character in a drama or fiction that represents a type and that is recognisable as belonging to a certain genre. | - Watch an example of spoof comedy/parody film. |
| **Stereotypes** | Stereotyping is a popular but simplified characterisation of people often made according to how they visually appear or behave. | - Create your own fictional stock character using stereotypes. |