Preparing for GCSE Drama – Advice from HLS Drama Department

December:	Performance of Devised Piece
February:	Trial Examination Written Paper
October 2024:	Visit to see Live Performance for Question 9 Written Paper
3rd April 2025:	Paper 2 Performance of Scripts to examiner
5th May 2025:	Devising Coursework Hand In
8th May 2025:	Written Paper (Component 3)

Component 1:	Devising a play (already completed in school and assessed in school).
Component 2:	Performing a script as monologue/duologue/group performance/set designer
	Written performance concept
Component 3:	Written Paper
	Find Me and Live Performance Evaluation of Dear Evan Hansen

Extra Sessions:

Coursework catch up/polish up:	Mondays/Wednesday
Scripted play rehearsal in hall:	Wednesdays after school in Coombe Hall (please book in a slot with all of your group members)

How do I prepare for my remaining trial exams and the real exams?

Paper 2:

Learn lines (get someone to test you by saying your cue lines)

Prepare set/props/lighting/sound

Rehearse with your group after school

Paper 3:

Re-read Find Me and take notes on key moments.

Use the cue cards you were given which highlight areas to think about in key moments

Design a set for Find Me and label it

Design costumes for Verity, Jean, Mark and Edward.

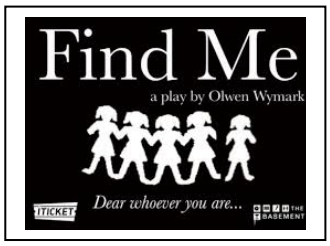
Revise lighting and staging terminology (on cue cards)

Watch Find Me again on YouTube (links are in GoogleClassroom)

Look at your notes on the Live Performance and the model answer booklet and learn some model paragraphs for both acting and designing questions

What happens after the Christmas Holidays?

You need to prepare for your performance to the examiner and revise for the written paper. You have to be self-disciplined and support your group in rehearsal times and learn your lines at home as soon as possible.



Written Paper Exam Questions:

Question	Marks	Tips
Find Me 1 + 2	4	They are asking for 2 examples of something practical on stage. You need to use stage terminology in your examples and explain the symbolism behind the things you've chosen. (Voice/Movement/Costume/Lights/Props). Make sure you say what your choices will mean to the audience.
Find Me 3 + 4 + 5	6	They want 3 examples and 3 explanations. You must use terminology and link your ideas to a key moment in the plot. You must talk about how the elements (voice/movement/costume/set/lights/props/sound) help to get across a character/design and their/it's message. You must talk about Olwen Wymark's message about mental health and the social stigmas about mental health in the 1950s-1970s.
Find Me 6 + 7 + 8	8	They want an 'accomplished' explanation of how you would direct/act/design/rehearse a moment on stage. Be careful to only talk about 1 moment if that is what they have asked for. Use terminology all the way through your answer. You must constantly reflect on how the choices you make on stage make meaning to an audience. You must talk about themes (Mental Health, NHS, Family, individuals and society, Verity's fate as a young adult in prison due to her not being cared for properly).
Live Performance Evaluation Dear Evan Hansen	30	You need to state which performance you have seen and when you saw it. (October 2024) You need to use playwright's/director's/designer's/actor's names in your introduction. State what style the play is. Brechtian What is the audience meant to be feeling/thinking during the performance? Entertained/Moral Message/Tension and Atmosphere. Your question will either be on design or acting. Sometimes you are asked for specific design, sometimes just visual, sometimes just set. In the acting question you could be asked to write about 1,2 or more actors. You must pick key moments from the play to write about, describe them, identify the drama technique they are using and use the correct term for it. Then explore how this moment and technique worked on the audience to have an effect. The best way to revise this question is to write down 6 or 7 key moments and how they work or 6 or 7 key design features in a PEPA paragraph. (Use the model paragraph booklet.

P: Point: A director/designer/actor could/would…

E: Example: For example, in the moment where…

P: Practical Practical application + terminology

A: Audience An audience member would feel/see/think