

## Year 8 Drama Knowledge Organiser – Term 6

### What will I learn about this term?

- In this unit you will learn about Stage Combat. You will take part in trust exercises and will learn to link moves to create sequences of choreography to develop your drama while understanding the safety aspects and skills involved.
- You will work in pairs to rehearse and perform Drama that includes Stage Combat choreography which will be assessed at the end of the unit.

**Stage Combat is NOT fighting. There is never contact, it is not unplanned or improvised.**

The basic principle and motto of stage combat is:

Safety first, Safety last, Safety always!

Stage Combat Rules:

- Pay close attention to yourself, your partner, and your surroundings.
- Make eye contact, then signal, then make your move.
- You are responsible for your partner's safety.
- Remain a safe distance at all times. Minimum distance: an outstretched hand span
- Practice in slow motion, never at full speed, even performances are only in ¼ time.

## Key Vocabulary



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**Choreography** – Choreography is the practice of designing sequences of steps, movements and physical action.

**Sequence** – A predetermined order; the following of one thing after another.

**Non-contact** – A blow delivered with the illusion of contact, a non-contact punch always misses its target by 6 inches or more.

**Audience Awareness** – An awareness in rehearsal and performance of where the audience are placed.

**Fight Distance** – The spacing between you and your partner. The correct spacing between you and your partner should be at least 3 to 4 feet apart. The hand should be at least 6 – 8 inches from the partner's chest. This allows for maximum safety while maintaining the illusion of reality.

**Eye Contact and Cueing** Making eye contact prior to each and every sequence in the fight as a constant reminder and signal to be ready and prepared for the next sequence. Cues should be choreographed into the fight at specific places to establish communication to continue.

**Dramatic action and reaction** - Dramatic action is more than just physical action, there are feelings behind it - conflict, tension, suspense, uncertainty, fear etc. The same be said of someone reaction to an action.

**Masking** – Hiding a moment of contact so that it will look as if the blow has struck its target.

**Knap** – Creating the sound of a hit in stage combat where no hit takes place.