

## GCSE Drama: Key vocabulary for characterisation

### **Stage Space:**

**Levels**- high or low

**Proxemics** - your distance relative to people and objects.

### **Physical skills**

**Body language** – the way you stand or move to show your character.

Posture is the way you stand

**Facial expression** – they way you move your face to show your feelings

**Movement** – how and where you move, can include the way you walk and use gestures

**Pace** – the speed at which you do things

**Gesture** – actions you do with your hand or body that show the audience or another character something about your feelings or intentions. For example, a wave or a thumbs up.

**Gaze** – where your character is looking on the stage. Are they looking directly at another person or not?

Back Stage area <small>The area located behind the stage</small>		
Upstage Right	Upstage	Upstage Left
Stage Right	Center Stage	Stage Left
Downstage Right	Downstage	Downstage Left

### **Vocal skills**

**Pitch** – speaking in a high, low or natural voice.

**Pace** – the speed at which someone speaks, eg the speed of response in an argument.

**Pause** – a dramatic pause at a crucial moment could merit a comment.

**Tone** – this suggests your mood and emotion and your intention towards the listener, eg happy or sad.

**Volume** – you might be commenting on audibility but you're more likely to be discussing the effect of a loud, powerful voice or a quiet, nervous or sad voice.

**Accent** – you may be talking about how someone has achieved a convincing accent or how the choice of accent enhanced their characterisation.

**Emphasis** – the pressure on individual words that makes them stand out. Emphasis or stress for a particular effect is significant and can change the meaning of a sentence as well as the feeling behind it.

**Intonation** – the rise and fall of the voice. There's a clear movement up at the end of a sentence when we ask questions for example. Intonation also helps us to say what we mean.

**Think: HOW will the actor/director choose to perform the moment/line and WHY are they doing it like that?**