**Driving Question:** What techniques do silent movies use to communicate a narrative?​

The Silent Movies theme aims to integrate many of the competency strands into a fun, interactive and creative theme. In order to answer the driving question, students must undertake a great deal of analysis, exploring the movies themselves as well as the era. The theme sets the scene for the understanding of silent movies by asking students to undertake historical research on the silent movie era and one of its most famous stars – Charlie Chaplin. Students are introduced to many of the acting and directing techniques and will learn about direct camera address, miming, comedy and how these techniques were used in the silent movies.

Students will work together in 'production' teams to create their own movies using the same techniques as the silent movie stars. There are opportunities for achieving progress in speaking and listening literacy during initial scoping sessions and rehearsals, written literacy in creating scripts and reading literacy in taking a script and bringing it to life on the screen as well as creating an Oscar speech. Science competencies are covered when students discover what sound is and the different properties of sound. This links into the end of the silent movie era when 'talkies' all but killed off silent films. Students will use technology to shoot, edit and 'post-produce' their films. Taking a 'standard' video, making it black and white, ageing it, adding appropriate music and intertitles are all new techniques that students have to master in order to create an authentic looking silent movie that originally may have been shot over 100 years ago.

**In this theme I will learn…**

* How to compare what life was like for people in Britain and America in the 1920s
* How to research how the genre of silent movies, its actors and films developed over time
* About the vast array of genres of silent movies
* How narratives can be communicated without words
* How to research the life and works of Charlie Chaplin using a range of sources
* To annotate a section of a biography ​on Charlie Chaplin
* How to write an essay including an Introduction and at least two PEEL paragraphs
* How to create a revision poster to explain how we hear different sounds
* How to explore how lighting and sound is used filming a piece of work and how important it is
* How a sound looks as a wave
* How to perform a group performance which demonstrates effective use of Silent Movie skills such as mime and comedy
* How to contribute ideas to group work, play an instrumental part in shaping the work
* How to use a clear storyboard structure when shaping your work. Present a clear storyline and use characters that suit the genre of silent movies. Make your character and setting obvious
* How to write a silent movie film review
* How to record your performance and set out your narrative scene by scene. Including location, direction (mime), props and camera angles/frames
* How to use software to edit your film
* About camera angles/shots
* How to create your own marketing material to help "sell" your film
* Write and perform an Oscar acceptance speech
* About the introduction and development of "Talkies".

**In this theme the skills I will develop will be…**

* How to compare what life was like in 20th Century Britain and America and write an essay answering ‘To what extent will the 2020s be as exciting as the 1920s? ​
* How to discuss why silent movies and its stars became so popular in the 20th Century
* How to explore the genre of silent movies and investigate purpose, audience, meaning and differing interpretations
* Annotation skills
* Research and investigation skills into the life and works of Charlie Chaplin using a range of sources
* How to analyse Charlie Chaplin’s life in the form of an essay.
* Explore the Science behind light and sound.
* How to label sound waves.
* How to compare the speed of sound and light​
* Drama skills in particular using mime and comedy.
* Rehearsal skills.
* Teamwork.
* How to sequence a narrative using a storyboard.
* How to film pieces of drama work and work together to explore a variety of camera angles and shots to help communicate a narrative.
* How to reflect on strengths and weakness and refine weaker areas.
* How to film your project using cameras/laptops.
* Editing skills using Canva video editor or MovieMaker.
* Organisational and evaluation skills to establish a constructive critique of a piece of work when reviewing a film
* Marketing skills to create your promotional material
* How to write and present a speech that is clear, interesting and engaging
* How to create a discursive text on the similarities and differences between Talkies vs Silent movies.