

# THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT

The Department comprises four full-time academic teachers and one part-time academic teacher who are supported by a Drama Graduate and Performing Arts Technician. All staff are involved in our co-curricular programme. We also have a LAMDA Coordinator who is supported by three additional staff.

The Drama Department occupies Hall Place Gardens, a large Edwardian house. We have a number of rooms available for rehearsals and LAMDA tuition and our productions are generously funded. Academic lessons take place in dedicated rooms; The Drama Studio, Michael House Hall, New Hall and a Drama Classroom. The Jubilee Hall is a versatile space with retractable raked seating, capable of mounting large-scale productions and housing an audience of approximately 220.

In Year 9 between 80-100 out of 120 students elect to take Drama each year. Approximately 30 students take GCSE Drama, and approximately 15 continue to A-Level. Our academic results are very strong. Each year a number of our A Level Theatre Studies cohort continue their studies at prestigious universities and Drama Schools and have been awarded scholarships.

We have an ambitious and diverse co-curricular provision. Each year the programme includes:

- House Performing Arts Competition (Whole School)
- Shakespeare Schools Foundation (Year 9)
- Whole School Play or Musical
- Lower School Play or Musical (KS3)
- STAHS Theatre Company production (KS4/5)

Recent productions include *Les Misérables*, *Matilda the Musical* and *Emil & the Detectives*. In a recent production of *Wendy & Peter Pan* our students performed the illusion of flight using specialist harnesses and wires. Our November 2024 production *Lés Miserables* was supported by a live orchestra, barricade, and revolving stage. Our November 2025 production will be *Harry Potter & The Cursed Child*, which the Drama Graduate will assistant-direct.

Our students are very talented and enjoy taking a lead on many aspects of the production including lighting and sound design, direction, stage-management and film. We have a large number of students taking LAMDA examinations and we have recently introduced the Arts Award.

We organise frequent workshops and trips for all year groups to see live theatre and regularly welcome theatre companies to the school. Recent theatre trips have included *Hamilton*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Stranger Things: The First Shadow*, and *Harry Potter & The Cursed Child*. We host an annual Artist in Residence week where students have the opportunity to work with industry professionals.

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## THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT (Continued)

Over the years we have taken students on a number of residential trips including the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Stratford-Upon-Avon, and further afield to New York and South Africa

We pride ourselves on offering a diverse range of lunch-time clubs and masterclasses during the year including, Technical Theatre Arts Club and our Contemporary Drama Group. Students also take a lead on exploring individual passions and talents through our drama podcast.

## THE ROLE

The role of Drama Graduate will be to support fully the Drama department's ambitious co-curricular provision, promote the student uptake of opportunities, and contribute to our outstanding academic provision.

Duties and responsibilities include co-directing/assistant-directing our major productions, supporting the practical work of GCSE and A Level examination pieces, and attending theatre trips and workshops. The Drama Graduate will occasionally teach practical Drama lessons in case of teacher absence. The successful applicant will therefore be able to deliver outstanding, engaging and fun practical Drama lessons. The Drama Graduate is expected to model scholarship in Drama, keep abreast of developments within their discipline, and to challenge, support and inspire pupils in line with strategic direction of the school and Drama Department.

This is a one-year fixed term position, offered on a full-time basis, 37 hours per week, 35 weeks per year. The working hours will be 9am – 5.30pm Monday – Thursday and 8.30am – 4.30pm on Friday with a one-hour unpaid lunch break.

The start date for this position will be September 2025.

To support this busy thriving department additional hours will be required after school and during weekend/holiday periods – this is compensated with time off in lieu.

This position involves contact with children and will amount to regulated activity as defined by Keeping Children Safe In Education (KCSIE) for safeguarding children and safer recruitment.

# RESPONSIBILITIES

All teachers are appointed by the Head and are expected to:

## Key responsibilities and accountabilities

- Support all aspects of delivery of the co-curriculum at Key Stage 3, including running regular Drama Clubs and masterclasses in your areas of specialism.
- Assist the co-ordination of our key productions, such as House Drama, the Whole School Play or Musical, the Lower School Show and Shakespeare for Schools.
- Help source props and costumes for all productions.
- Help out on the 'get ins' and 'get outs' for shows, assisting the Performing Arts Technician for example in building and painting sets and making props.
- Attend and support evening productions and evening and weekend rehearsals.
- Organise and support additional projects such as our partnership projects with other local schools, organisations and the STAHS Prep School.
- Support pupil leadership opportunities and initiatives, such as those enabled by the Drama Scholars Programme.
- Assist with coaching and advise pupils preparing for Drama School or external auditions and scholarships.
- Support the delivery of practical examination performances with GCSE Drama and A level Theatre and Drama Groups.
- Occasionally, teach practical Drama lessons to cover teacher absence.
- Accompanying staff on school Drama trips, such as theatre visits.
- Assist the Director of Drama with event organisation and the day-to-day administration and smooth running of the department.
- Assist with room bookings for the department, including for LAMDA, drama clubs, productions and events.
- Attend weekly Drama Department meetings.

## Professional Development

- Participate in training and undertake any performance development activities as required for the position.

## Additional Information

- Support for the School's mission, vision and values and strategic direction
- Participate actively in the wider aspects of school life
- In addition to the above, the post holder will carry out any other professional duties as reasonably required by the Head

*The High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.*

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

STAHS is a vibrant school supported by a diverse and enthusiastic community of staff, pupils, parents and alumni. It is important that our staff reflect the diversity of our community, and we therefore welcome and encourage applications from people of all genders and sexual orientation, those from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds, and those with disabilities.

The successful candidate will be required to fulfil all of the duties, as outlined in the job description. In addition to this, the candidate should possess the following competencies which are essential to this position:

## QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Excellent degree and/or postgraduate qualification in Drama from either a university or drama school
- Experience of working with young people in an educational context is desirable, but not essential

## SKILLS

- Attainment and maintenance of skills and professional knowledge/accreditations required for the role
- Ability to manage expectations clearly by monitoring own progress against objectives and planning to ensure delivery
- Ability to identify common problems or weaknesses in policy, procedure or protocol that affects service, and escalate these or puts in place solutions
- Ability to think through wider consequences of own actions when assessing multiple demands and competing priorities
- Excellent organisation and planning skills
- Familiarity with basic Office programs including Word, Excel and Teams and ability to adapt to use of new and unfamiliar technology are essential
- The ability to work with basic graphic-design software (such as Canva) is essential

## PERSONAL QUALITIES

- A demonstrable personal love of Drama and Theatre is essential
- Warm, welcoming and professional, behaving with discretion, integrity, honesty and always acting with due consideration of others within the school community
- Respond effectively to emergencies or last-minute demands on time
- Flexible in approach when dealing with changing situations or priorities
- A team worker, appreciates contribution of colleagues
- Take personal accountability and ownership for their work, decisions and actions and demonstrate commitment to accomplish work efficiently and to the required standard
- Willing to take on extra responsibility and use own initiative to overcome obstacles and ensure timely delivery of service

## PERSON SPECIFICATION (Continued)

### PHILOSOPHY AND ETHOS

- A commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and to following the child protection procedures detailed in the School's safeguarding policy
- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children
- Contribute positively to the overall ethos, objectives and aims of the School

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Support Health and Safety training initiatives and to actively participate in this area.

### PHYSICAL WORKING AND ENVIRONMENT

- Set builds or lifting heavy props/equipment can be physically demanding