

## DRAMA AT STAHS

Drama is at the heart of the thriving co-curricular life at STAHS. We are passionate about inspiring young women to find their voices through the Performing Arts and our students excel as actors, designers, directors and technicians. Last year, we were delighted to be awarded the Muddy Boots Best School Award for the calibre and dynamism of our programme.

Our academic results are very strong. In Year 9 between 80-100 students elect to take Drama each year. Approximately 30 students take GCSE Drama, and around 10 continue to A-Level. A number of our A Level Theatre Studies cohort continue their studies at prestigious universities and Drama Schools.

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

- A Shakespeare Film project with the Shakespeare Schools Foundation
- Whole School Play or Musical
- Lower School Play or Musical
- A Sixth Form Production
- Our Scholars programme
- The National Theatre's New Views writing programme

Recent productions include *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *A Doll's House*, *Frozen*, *Les Misérables*, *Matilda the Musical* and *Emil & The Detectives*. The Drama Graduate plays a key role in assistant directing our ensemble driven productions.



## DRAMA AT STAHS (Continued)

We set our sights high with the scale of our productions. We aim to enable every student to soar- at times quite literally- as in this year's production of Harry Potter where the cast learnt arial skills and performed the illusion of flight using specialist harnesses and wires. Our students hone their skills and nurture their passion for drama through a vibrant, wide-ranging co-curricular offering, varying from naturalistic masterpieces in intimate venues, to epics like *Lés Miserables* performed with a live orchestra, barricade, and revolving stage. They unleash their creativity, gain a profound self confidence, and make lifelong memories together.



Our students are very talented and enjoy taking a lead on many aspects of the co-curricular life of the school including lighting and sound design, directing, stage-management and film making. Around 40 students take LAMDA examinations and the department offers students the opportunity to pursue 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 *Dracula*, *SIX*, *Hamilton*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Stranger Things: The First Shadow*, and *Harry Potter & The Cursed Child*. 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 during the year, including Technical Theatre Arts Club and our Lower School Drama Group. Students also take a lead on exploring individual passions and talents through our Masterclass series.

## THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT

The Department is a close-knit team of specialists, comprised of 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. Academic lessons take place in dedicated rehearsal rooms; the Drama Studio, Michael House Hall, New Hall and a Drama Classroom. In addition, we have individual practice rooms, a sizable Costume store, separate Set store and a departmental Drama library.

Our chief performance venue is the Jubilee Hall, a versatile modern space with retractable raked seating, capable of mounting large-scale productions and housing an audience of approximately 220.



## THE ROLE

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

Duties and responsibilities include 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 2026.

To support this busy department additional hours will be required during weekend and holiday periods. In addition, during production weeks the post holder will support with running backstage, entailing work in the evenings. 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

The post includes some occasional teaching and support with lessons:

## Key responsibilities and accountabilities

- Support all aspects of delivery of the co-curriculum, including running regular Drama Clubs and masterclasses in your areas of specialism.
- Assist the creative and logistical co-ordination of our key productions, such as the Whole School Play or Musical, the Lower School Show and Shakespeare for Schools.
- Help source props and costumes for co-curricular Drama and maintain and organise our stores.
- 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 the Scholars programme, Sixth Form production and Pantomime for local care homes.
- 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.
- Accompany 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 or Bursar

*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

