



# pipers corner SCHOOL

An independent day school for girls aged 4-18

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## Recruitment Pack

Head of Prep Drama

(Adoption leave cover)





## The School

Pipers Corner is a Girls' School Association (GSA) and Heads' Conference Association (HMC) Independent School for girls aged 4-18. Set in 96 acres of beautiful Chiltern countryside, the School is four miles north of High Wycombe and two miles from Great Missenden. In its most recent ISI inspection (March 2026), Pipers Corner School met all of the required Independent School Standards across every area of the inspection.

Founded in 1930, the school was established on its current site in 1945. The school now comprises of approximately 600 students and employs more than 170 staff. Demand for a place at Pipers has increased in recent years, and we remain full.

Our site has incredible facilities to inspire the next generation, we have a 280 seat theatre, fully equipped for our student technical team, with plenty of performances for our aspiring performers. Our Pipers Radio studio broadcasts live every lunchtime.

Sporting facilities include the swimming pool, fitness suite, astro pitch and gymnasium. Forest school is conducted in our on-site woodland, and to encourage environmental awareness we have two outdoor eco-classrooms with wind turbines and water butts. Students of all ages benefit from outdoor lessons in our wildflower meadow.





## Welcome from the Head

At Pipers, there is no such thing as a typical 'Pipers' girl. All members of staff support the students to fulfil their academic and personal potential, enabling them to emerge as mature, confident and independent young adults. Investment in talented and inspirational teaching staff and professional services staff is at the heart of our success, and our recent academic results and overall performance bear testament to this.

Every member of the Pipers community, both academic and professional services staff, play a vital role in maintaining the excellent standard of education we provide. Underpinning everything that we do is a team of enthusiastic and determined staff, with a willingness to think outside of the box.

Personal development is always encouraged and supported, and well-being is at the forefront for staff as much as students.

I am incredibly proud of the Pipers community and it is a privilege to work alongside such talented staff and positive students.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Ness-Gifford".

Mrs Helen Ness-Gifford





## Why work at Pipers?

We have a strong community and pride ourselves on being a warm and supportive workplace. Visitors to the school often comment on the positive atmosphere. Benefits for teaching and professional services staff include:

- Competitive salaries and excellent pension schemes
- Professional review and commitment to CPD for all
- On-site car parking and the possibility of on-site single accommodation
- Free lunch provided in term time, with numerous hot and cold options
- Staffroom with free tea, coffee and fruit
- Use of the fitness suite and swimming pool
- Staff clubs such as yoga, running and football
- Cycle to work scheme
- Access to a free counselling service

The school is less than an hour from Central London and has excellent rail links and motorway connections. It is four miles north from High Wycombe, which has a large shopping centre, two multiplex cinemas, a sports centre and several out of town shopping areas.





## Testimonials

"The students at Pipers Corner understand the importance of their own, and each other's development, making the classroom culture supportive and nurturing. But what makes Pipers special to work in is that they appreciate this environment, as well as the staff, allowing them to grow as individuals and make progress."

"Since joining Pipers I have been impressed by the strong sense of community between colleagues and the amount of trust and support shown by the parents."

"Pipers Corner School is a great place to work. It has encouraged me to push myself to be the best teacher I can be, allowing me to experiment with my teaching style and get to know pupils in a fun and engaging way. The School has excellent facilities and is focused on helping students reach their highest potential."

"Pipers has a warm working environment, with friendly staff who will do all they can to support your development and positive spirit."

"I enjoy working at Pipers because of the great relationship between staff and students. Lessons have a fun but productive atmosphere and classes of all ages are keen to learn."



## Job Advert

### Head of Prep Drama

#### Full-time

To start September 2026 | Adoption leave cover, lasting up to one year

Salary | Competitive, dependent on experience

We are recruiting for a dynamic, creative, experienced and highly motivated teacher of Drama to lead the teaching of Drama in our Pre-Prep and Prep Departments (aged 4-11). The successful candidate needs to understand how to impart a skills-based curriculum to our youngest students, equipping them with the foundational skills needed to achieve continued success in Drama as they progress through the School. Excellent communication skills and empathy with young people are must-haves, as are a sense of humour and an understanding that even the youngest students have the capacity to learn higher level skills that stretch and challenge them.

To apply for this post, please complete the application form via MyNewTerm. Please note that the application form must be completed in full. It is not sufficient to substitute a C.V. for all or any part of the form. You are welcome to email the school via [hr@piperscorner.co.uk](mailto:hr@piperscorner.co.uk) to ask for clarification of any matters in this booklet or if you have queries on how to complete the application form.

Send completed application via MyNewTerm addressed to: Mrs Helen Ness-Gifford, Headmistress.

Closing date | Thursday 4 June 2026

Interview date | Tbc

Suitable candidates may be interviewed before the closing date and Pipers Corner School reserves the right to withdraw the position if an early appointment is made.

Pipers Corner School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check.

Registered Charity No. 310635



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| <p><b>Job Title</b></p> <p>Head of Prep Drama</p> | <p><b>Salary</b></p> <p>Competitive, dependent on experience</p>                          | <p><b>Working hours</b></p> <p>Full-time</p> |
| <p><b>Line managing (direct)</b></p> <p>N/A</p>   | <p><b>Reporting to</b></p> <p>The Director of Drama and The Head of Prep and Pre-Prep</p> |  |

**The Role**

The Head of Prep Drama will work under the Director of Drama teaching Reception (to Year 8 where required) and contributing to the extra-curricular provision for the Lower School. The successful candidate will have an excellent knowledge of contemporary theatre practice and will understand that the process of creating Drama is as, if not more, important than performance. Experience of teaching this age range is essential.

**The Drama Department**

The Drama Department is part of a vibrant Performing Arts Faculty at Pipers Corner School. The Drama, Dance and Music Departments work very closely together, and we encourage our students to strengthen and develop their performance skills in all three disciplines. Whether they start their education with us at Pre-Prep, Prep, or in Senior School, Curriculum Drama is taught by Drama specialists at every level. The Department is currently staffed by the Director of Drama, Assistant Director of Drama, the Head of Prep Drama and a Drama Assistant. The Drama Department offers a full and varied range of extracurricular activities including performances of whole-school musicals and for Senior Students plays by modern contemporary dramatists, immersive productions inspired by Punchdrunk and international visits to New York. Our strengths as a department are in making theatre accessible to students of all abilities. We excel in musical theatre but provide opportunities for all those with a specialised interest, such as technical theatre, costume and film making. The theatrical ethos of the Department is to produce work that is creatively challenging and experimental, giving our students a diverse theatrical experience and fully preparing them from the moment they arrive at Pipers to study Drama in Higher Education or in just gaining fantastic communication skills and a love for theatre before moving on to other careers.

**The Prep Department**

The Prep Department at Pipers is a fully integrated part of the school, comprising 88 students within a thriving independent school of around 600 students. It operates as a single-form entry in Years 3, 4, and 5, expanding to two forms in Year 6, with class sizes ranging from 16 to 20. All classes receive a double drama lesson (80 minutes) per week. Extracurricular participation rates are very high within the subject. Outstanding facilities are available for sessions including the Theatre, Drama Studio and Prep Hall.



**Specific Responsibilities**

Principal

- To work with the Director of Drama to lead and manage the provision of Drama in the Prep and Pre-Prep Departments
- To work with the Heads of Prep Music and Prep Art, and the Head of Dance, to develop cross-curricular links
- To direct Prep and Pre-Prep productions as required, whilst ensuring the curriculum is focused around the process of creating drama, challenging the expectation that all work will lead to performance
- To teach Drama from Reception (to Year 8 if required) and to work with the Director of Drama to create new and exciting schemes of work that scaffold core skills and show continuity and progression into the Senior School
- To innovate, inspire and challenge how students and their parents perceive Drama and performance
- To demonstrate passion for specific or niche areas of theatre to inspire and enthuse our students with the desire to be creative and to help them grow into interesting and innovative performers
- To assess, record and report the performance of pupils at every stage, adjusting teaching strategies as necessary, and to take particular responsibility for the collation and recording of this data for the department
- To implement and manage a strategy for Gifted and Talented Drama students, ensuring that they are provided with stretch and challenge
- To write quality subject reports, meeting deadlines as published in the academic calendar
- To attend regular departmental meetings both in Drama, Prep and Pre-Prep
- To attend parents' evenings and communicate and consult with parents of girls when necessary throughout the year
- To support the Director of Drama in the development of the bi-annual departmental Development plan
- To manage English Speaking Board Assessments for year 4 and 6 students
- To contribute to the Enrichment programme of the School by offering a club/activity
- To attend regular whole staff meetings, INSET days and school functions as published in the year's calendar
- To uphold the policies of the school ensuring, for example, that expectations of a girl's conduct are consistent with the school's Behaviour and Discipline policy, so that good order and discipline are maintained
- To be responsible for helping to manage resources and equipment ensuring that good practice is followed according to the school's Health and Safety procedures



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| Principal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be responsible for the pastoral care of a form as form tutor or to undertake another pastoral role as directed by the Headmistress</li> <li>• To carry out any additional responsibility and duties which the Headmistress or Bursar may reasonably from time to time request</li> <li>• To promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young persons for whom you are responsible and with whom you come into contact</li> </ul> <p>Within these principal responsibilities the Head of Prep Drama is expected to foster an ethos of high expectations and enthusiasm for both students and staff.</p> |
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May 2026

*This job description will be reviewed annually and may be subject to amendment or modification at any time after consultation with the post holder. It is not a comprehensive statement of procedures and tasks but sets out the main expectations of the School in relation to the post holder's professional responsibilities and duties.*

