



WHITGIFT



Director of Drama

September 2026

An Introduction to Whitgift

“Superb cosmopolitan boys school, with outstanding facilities and a strong academic reputation - an example of what education is really about”

Good Schools Guide

“The co-curricular programme provides pupils with an exceptional range of clubs and societies which enables them to identify new interests and develop their skills. This programme is a significant strength of the school”

ISI Inspection 2025

“Pupils contribute confidently during lessons, persevere in the face of challenge and take risks to develop their knowledge and understanding”

ISI Inspection 2025

“You have an astonishing school”

Sir David Attenborough

Whitgift is an exciting and stimulating place to work, defined by high aspiration, positive challenge and strong pastoral care, enabling students and colleagues to thrive. The School educates approximately 1,500 students, including over 100 boarders, with day pupils travelling from across London, Surrey, Sussex and Kent and entry points at 10+, 11+, 13+ and Sixth Form. With an international outlook, onsite boarding and a dedicated International Education department, Whitgift offers breadth and depth of opportunity, preparing students exceptionally well for life beyond school.

A multi-cultural and multi-faith community rooted in a Church of England heritage, Whitgift reflects the diversity of South London and is united by shared values and aspirations (see School Aims). Building on outstanding academic results and co-curricular success, Whitgift continues to strengthen its position as one of Britain's leading independent day and boarding

schools, and offers a unique, inspiring and highly rewarding environment in which to build a career.

Why Work at Whitgift?

- A school with a rich history dating back to 1596 and a strong reputation for academic excellence
- Rated a 'Significant Strength' for its co-curricular programme in the latest ISI Inspection, providing extensive opportunities for staff involvement
- A friendly, inclusive and diverse community
- Excellent transport links to London and the South East
- Modern onsite facilities set within a beautiful historic parkland
- Outstanding provision for sport, music and drama
- A strong international focus, with boarding at the heart



Headmaster's Welcome

Welcome to Whitgift and thank you for your interest in this astonishing School. The features that make Whitgift so wonderful are many, but the overall atmosphere of high challenge, support, ambition and breadth encapsulates the 'why' of Whitgift.

This ethos is ably fostered by the colleagues with whom we work, and we are hugely fortunate to have a fantastically talented and committed staff body who enjoy working here. We are also privileged to educate a cohort of energetic, engaged and curious young men who come from an enormously wide range of backgrounds and play a huge role in creating the special community that flourishes here at Whitgift. Our tradition of service, giving back and purposeful partnerships means we are rooted in our locality. As part of the John Whitgift Foundation, we are proud of our heritage and equally eager to look for ways in which we might further improve our community.

That community is one where we care for the individual as well as each other, challenge our boys through our academic teaching, offer an extraordinarily wide range of opportunities for the boys and pursue excellence in all that we do. This reflects our holistic approach to education that enables our young men to thrive and flourish while here, and in their lives after Whitgift.

It is an exciting time to be joining this innovative and welcoming School, and I hope to welcome you here soon.

Mr Toby Seth



School Life

Academic Achievement

Whitgift offers a broad and flexible curriculum with a range of academic pathways leading to internationally recognised qualifications. Choice, flexibility, independent learning and international mindedness are central to our approach.

This approach has delivered consistently outstanding results, placing Whitgift among the top academic independent schools nationally. In summer 2025, record rate of A*s at A Level (over 27%), 43% of GCSE grades at grade 9, and 98% of Higher Level grades at 7, 6 and 5 for the International Baccalaureate (IB) which recorded the strongest ever IB results. The majority of students progress to their first-choice higher education destinations, including Oxbridge, leading UK universities and institutions overseas.

Pastoral Care

At Whitgift, pastoral care underpins every aspect of school life. We believe that students flourish academically and personally when they feel known, supported and encouraged.

Boys are challenged to step beyond their comfort zones with the confidence that they are fully supported, particularly through the tutor system. A wide range of pastoral and wellbeing support enables students to build resilience, confidence and the skills needed to navigate the demands of modern life.

"Pupils acquire advanced skills and knowledge in academic, creative and technological subjects."

"Pupils of all ages make good progress, achieving results in public examinations above expectations based on standardised baseline testing."

Co-Curricular Life

Whitgift places exceptional importance on co-curricular provision, believing that sport, music, drama and wider activities play a vital role in developing confident, well-rounded individuals.

Sport

Sport at Whitgift is outstanding, supported by excellent facilities including a £9m sports and conference centre and extensive onsite playing fields. Our inclusive ethos, 'Your Journey Is Our Passion', ensures every student is supported, whether participating for enjoyment and wellbeing or pursuing elite and professional pathways.

Music and Drama

Music and Drama flourish at Whitgift, with extensive opportunities for performance, production and creative development. Students perform regularly at prestigious venues including the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and Cadogan Hall, with strong links to Croydon Minster and Fairfield Halls. The elite Drama programme challenges students across performance, direction and design, with the opportunity to attend the world's biggest arts festival, Edinburgh Fringe.

100+ Clubs and Societies

Students can choose from over 100 clubs and societies, ranging from the £100 Enterprise Club and Animal Club to the Meteorological Society and the Green Power Car clubs. Vital elements of the co-curricular programme include Outdoor Education, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Combined Cadet Force, reflecting Whitgift's commitment to breadth, choice and individual growth.



Director of Drama

The Vacancy

We are seeking to appoint a committed and inspirational professional to be Director of Drama at an exciting moment in the school's evolution. Whitgift has mapped out a clear vision of where the School wants to be and our Co-Curricular programme is very much at the heart of this vision. In the recent ISI Inspection our inspiring Co-Curricular programme was identified and celebrated as a 'significant strength'. Underpinning this is the commitment to ensure all students talents are nurtured and breadth of opportunity is at the core of our sector leading provision.

The Director of Drama will be expected to inspire boys to reach new levels of excellence and to show the commitment and leadership required to support outstanding Whitgift drama. The successful candidate should be well-qualified and dynamic with excellent organisational and people skills. They will have a proven track record of teaching and/or drama direction and be passionate in developing exceptional opportunities, celebrating every pupil's effort and achievement whether they are performing or working behind the scenes. The colleague appointed will have extensive support from senior colleagues, in addition to the opportunity for considerable innovation and flexibility in determining how our thriving drama department will develop over the coming years.

Drama at Whitgift has an outstanding reputation enabling boys to perform to professional standards throughout their school lives. The drama programme at the school has expanded enormously over the past few years; we stage a large number of productions every year giving students of all ages the opportunity to be involved in the magic of theatre.

The inspiring Whitgift 7 programme ensures every member of the First Form benefits from stepping onto the stage. The Department regularly take a production to the Edinburgh Fringe festival. It is our firm belief that every boy will leave Whitgift having experienced a full repertoire of theatre from classic to contemporary plays and encompassing a variety of genres from comedy to tragedy and musical theatre.

Our theatrical facilities are housed in our recently renovated Performing Arts Centre where the theatre can be configured to meet the needs of the production being staged - be it in the round, traverse or thrust. Big School (the main assembly hall) is converted to a tiered seating theatre (including gallery seating) for the major productions. In addition to these excellent venues, productions have been performed outside in both the Andrews quadrangle and the Founder's Garden, whilst the Drama Studio is another versatile teaching, rehearsal and performance space.

Joining Whitgift offers the opportunity to be part of a forward-thinking and supportive environment that values both tradition and innovation. The successful candidate will have the freedom to shape the future of drama at the School while benefiting from the support of experienced senior colleagues and the resources needed to make their creative vision a reality.

Whitgift's reputation for drama attracts some of the highest calibre candidates, and we look forward to welcoming an individual who shares our passion for providing exceptional drama opportunities.

Drama scholarships are awarded annually through an audition process, ensuring that we continue to attract the best and brightest talent.

The position reports to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The Drama Department

Drama is taught by four specialist Drama teachers who are staff from the Drama and English departments. The Director of Drama is also supported by a Head of Academic Drama, a full time Production Manager and a Graduate Drama Assistant, who support with lessons, production administration, pupil mentoring, management and various backstage roles.

The Department is well-resourced, with a strong budget to create incredible productions, invite in visiting practitioner

of high quality and to organise numerous trips to London theatres. There is a full Co-curricular programme designed to encourage a love of Drama incorporating major productions throughout the year as well as drama and backstage clubs.

Curriculum

Boys in the Lower First to the Second Form explore fundamentals of theatre and drama, with a focus on key performance skills and a creative and collaborative use of ensemble. In Third form, pupils can choose to continue Drama at a higher level, studying commedia dell'arte, physical theatre and a contemporary text, whilst developing their analytical and evaluative skills. As boys progress through the School, drama lessons take on a much more academic feel, with theatre vocabulary being taught in abundance, but building on the theatrical fundamentals taught in previous years.

Drama in the Upper School is delivered through the AQA specification at both GCSE and A level, offering students a rich and balanced curriculum that nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and performance skills. Pupils explore a wide range of dramatic forms, styles, and traditions, learning to devise original work and respond thoughtfully to live theatre and set texts. The curriculum is designed to develop both practical and analytical abilities, encouraging students to engage deeply with diverse stimuli and theatrical conventions. For practical assessments at A Level, pupils are empowered to select their own performance texts, fostering ownership and confidence in their work. This autonomy supports personal expression and ensures that each student can thrive in a supportive and challenging creative environment.

Academic Results

Academically, the Drama Department is very successful.

Boarding

Our superbly equipped boarding facilities are ideally placed within the spacious grounds of Haling Park. A large proportion of boarders come from various parts of the United Kingdom, and some from 20 other countries across the world. As a Boarding School, stimulating opportunities may be available for the right candidate to contribute to the pastoral care of students as a Boarding Tutor – both residential and non-residential – along with a wide range of co-curricular activities which include outstanding sport and music programmes. Shortlisted applicants will be able to express their interest at interview.

Teaching and Learning

At Whitgift our curriculum is designed to stimulate independent thinking and a lifelong passion for learning and intellectual life in its broadest sense. Alongside providing academic challenge for all students, it offers opportunity and rigour. It is only by excitement about learning that we can support students to achieve beyond what they felt they were capable of.

All of the traditional academic subjects are enhanced by a range of cross-curricular approaches. In the Lower First and First Form, students study Digital Literacy and Global Citizenship, courses which develop study skills and oracy skills. In the Second Form, students complete the Ignite course which aims to further develop intellectual curiosity, independence of thought, and the skills to engage meaningfully in academic research. Our new Sixth Form Curriculum (starting in September 2026) will allow students to go beyond their core A Levels and create a curriculum of additional electives to personalise their final two years of secondary education. Our extensive Academic Enrichment programme is also accessible by the entire school and creates opportunities for students to engage in independent research and encounter visiting experts in a wide range of disciplines.

Our aim is to empower staff to deliver the highest quality teaching and learning experience, with a particular focus on meeting student needs through classroom strategies and the utilisation of digital opportunities. Staff are supported to achieve this through a wide range of in-house and external Continuous Professional Development opportunities.

Digital Section

At Whitgift, Digital Learning plays an essential role in modern education, and our comprehensive Digital Strategy is aligned with our broader Learning and Innovation vision. Every student is provided with a laptop, enabling access to a wide range of resources, including the Microsoft 365 suite; collaborative learning opportunities, and innovative tools to inspire and challenge. To further support this, Digital Literacy is included in the Lower First and First Form curriculum, helping students become confident and responsible digital citizens. From the Third Form upwards, students are trained in the effective use of Microsoft Copilot to promote critical thinking and support revision. Teachers benefit from ongoing Digital Learning development, including in the Microsoft 365 suite, and Copilot AI training to support personalised learning and efficiency.

Drama	Grades	2025	2024	2023	2022
GCSE/IGCSE	9-7	57%	58%	43%	76%
A Level	A*-B	100%	-----	100%	100%



Community Partnerships

The John Whitgift Foundation has a strong ethos of working in partnerships with the local community. As part of this, we are proud to promote these values and this filters through all aspects of the School. Whitgift students and staff are already active in in this area, particularly through our partnerships with primary schools, and we are committed to increasing this involvement in the coming years. There will be exciting opportunities for staff to be involved in activities which both enhance the personal development of Whitgift students and support the needs of others in the local area. Opportunities will become available in the Whitgift Community Summer School, Primary Academic Masterclasses, Primary Project and/or other activities of this type as the programme develops.

Contact

Please feel free to contact Alistair Osborne, Assistant Head, Co-Curricular and Admissions on 020 8688 9222 if you have questions regarding the vacancy or would like to know more.



The Application Process & Staff Benefits

Applications

We invite interested candidates to apply online as soon as possible. Please include your CV and a supporting statement when submitting your online application. Applications will be reviewed daily, and interviews may occur at any stage after applications are received so we invite interested candidates to apply as soon as possible.

We welcome applications from all parts of the community as a school which is proud of the social and cultural diversity of our student intake. Whitgift aims to employ staff who are best qualified for the post and does not discriminate on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or religious belief, sexual orientation, marital or civil partnership status, disability or age.

For further information and an online application form, please visit www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies. For any general queries, please telephone the School Human Resources Department on 020 8688 9222 or email SchoolHR@whitgift.co.uk.

Salary

The John Whitgift Foundation has its own generous salary scale, which is significantly above that of the maintained sector. Starting salaries are dependent on relevant qualifications and experience. The Governors review salary scales annually in September to ensure that they remain competitive.

Staff are expected to make a significant contribution to the co-curricular life of the School and this is reflected in the salary offered. A strong commitment to the pastoral system is also anticipated.

Other Benefits

Free membership is available at the onsite gym from 6.00am-7.00am and 5.00pm-7.00pm Monday to Friday, and 8.00am-12.00pm and 4.00pm-6.00pm Saturday and Sunday.

In addition, teachers can choose between membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme with 3 x salary life assurance cover or a defined contribution (DC) scheme which they can tailor to meet their financial goals and includes 5 x salary life assurance cover.

Teachers also enjoy our Employee Discount Club, membership of a healthcare plan, a range of family friendly benefits and season ticket loan. Assistance is offered towards removal expenses.

Permanent staff at the John Whitgift Foundation Schools enjoy a discount on school fees (upon successful completion of the probationary period) to a maximum discount of 50% of salary (pro rata for part time staff).

Pre-employment Checks

All appointments will be subject to two satisfactory references (which may be taken prior to interview), Enhanced Disclosure check by the Disclosure and Barring Service and medical fitness for the role. Where applicable, overseas police checks and prohibition from teaching and management checks will also be completed. All checks must be completed before employment can commence at the School.

In line with Home Office requirements under the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, all successful applicants will be required to demonstrate their right to work in the UK by presenting

original documents evidencing their identity and eligibility to work in person. This may also be completed using the Home Office online right to work checking service (share code).

Whitgift School also requires sight of original qualification and professional membership documents as detailed in the application.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Whitgift School (part of the John Whitgift Foundation) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants must be willing to undergo safer recruitment checks, including child protection screening, checks with past employers, an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and appropriate online searches of publicly available information.



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