

Graduate Theatre Fellow Information for Candidates

The School

Oakham is one of the UK's most forward thinking and innovative co-educational boarding and day schools. The school has 1060 pupils aged 10-18, half of them boarders, half day pupils. With equal numbers of boys and girls since 1989, the School offers a truly co-educational environment.

Whilst attracting pupils from all over the country and abroad, the School enjoys a close relationship with the town and the surrounding area. Two years ago Oakham School became one of the sponsors of an academic Sixth Form Academy, Harington School.

Oakham's strength lies in providing a spectacularly wide range of opportunities and activities which sit alongside an invigorating and challenging academic curriculum. In the Upper School, students choose between A-levels, Pre-U and BTEC qualifications, or the IB Diploma.

In recent years, the school has made it a priority to develop independent learning through a series of learning habits, which are increasingly embedded across the curriculum, both inside and outside the classroom. The 'Oakham learning journey' begins in the Lower School (situated on the Jerwoods Site), where boys and girls are admitted through the School's own entrance exam at 11 (there is also a small entry at 10). Pupils also enter the school at 13+ through the Common Entrance (CE) examination and we have a further major entry point at 16+.

Over many years, the school has not only been incredibly successful academically, but it is also recognised nationally for its outstanding achievements in sport, music, drama and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The School is at an incredibly exciting point in its history and has a very ambitious development plan for the next five years, including a new facility for the Performing Arts. Last September, the School opened a new classroom block for Humanities. This year, the School opened a new state-of-the-art Faculty of Social Sciences and has just commenced major redevelopment of the Sports Centre. Oakham School does not stand still.

The Department

There are 4 full-time and two part-time teachers in the Department (including the Director of Drama) and the subject is taught from Lower One (NC Year 6) through to Form 3 (Year 9) as part of the core curriculum. In Form 1 to Form 3 it is accompanied by Dance. Drama is a popular option at GCSE with over 50 pupils taking the subject over the two years of the course. A' Level Drama & Theatre Studies and IB Theatre attracts around 15 pupils each

year. The department currently enjoys the assistance of a full time Theatre Manager, a full-time Theatre Technician and a part-time Theatre Designer and a Teacher of Acting.

The department works in The Queen Elizabeth Theatre, a 200 seat proscenium arch space; there are two dressing rooms, a teaching staff office and a support staff office. There is a small studio for auxiliary practical teaching use, a dance studio and a formal classroom. The Department runs the building on a day to day basis and the Director of Drama is responsible for the running and functioning of these facilities.

There are a number of Drama Award holders in the 3rd 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th forms. These awards are made at the discretion of the Headmaster and the Director of Drama and comply with the School's policy for awards; auditions are usually held in the Winter Term of the applicants' 5th Form (Year 11) year or in the Spring term in the case of our newly founded All Rounder Scholarships and our 13+ Drama Scholarship. Candidates from outside the School are encouraged to apply.

Dance, both in the curriculum and as an activity, falls within the remit of the Department.

Some members of the teaching Department are currently expected to direct some shows, with the Director of Drama taking a lead. The Department's production schedule currently includes the following, with all shows, except those generated by taught courses, running for between 3 and 5 nights:

September	Macfadyen Shield (House devising competition)
October	Upper School Studio Production
November	Main School Production
December	A2 devised pieces (usually 2 or 3)
January	House play season (2 productions in the QET, 2-3 elsewhere)
February	OSAF (Oakham Students' Arts Festival) Productions (usually 3 or 4)
March	Lower School Performing Arts Evening (Form 2)
March	Middle School Production
March	Scholars' Production
March	Form 5 GCSE performances
May	Lower School Performing Arts Evening (Form 1)
May	AS productions and Monologues
May	Speech Day performances
June	Lower School Production
August	Edinburgh Fringe productions

Rehearsal slots currently run as follows:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 7:30-9pm; Tuesday and Thursday 5-8pm; Sunday 2-4 or 4-8pm.

In recent years touring companies of Oakhamians have performed in venues as far apart as Canada, Scandinavia, the USA and, closer to home, in Edinburgh.

The person appointed is likely to have:

- A good degree from a specialist theatre department.

The post holder will:

- Assist in all practical aspects of the Drama Curriculum.
- Assist in all aspects of the administration of the department.
- Assist in the technical preparation and presentation of productions and examination work.

- Observe a range of drama lessons being taught and to assist as and when necessary and appropriate.
- Assist in any aspect of the day to day running of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.
- Work with the Director of Drama researching and facilitating specific projects.
- Attend production rehearsals where necessary.
- Be aware of Health and Safety Executive legislation as relevant to theatrical premises.
- Accompany the annual trip to the NSDF Festival if required.
- Accompany and assist in the organisation of the necessary theatre trips for the delivery of syllabi.

All Oakham staff are expected to take a full part in the life of this busy boarding school.

Public Examination Results

Academic performance is excellent. In the IB Diploma in 2016, students achieved a mean score of 37.2 points, with 97% of all Higher Level grades being 7, 6 or 5, and over a quarter scoring 40 or more points. At A-level, 17.5% of all examinations were graded A*, and 74% graded in the range A* to B. Overall, combining across all qualifications, results for the Upper School equate to around 82% A-level grades A*-B or equivalent.

At GCSE level, typically around 65% of all examinations are awarded A* or A; in 2016, over a quarter achieved straight A*s and As, with a third achieving five A*s or better.

Wider Curriculum

Oakham's total curriculum is particularly rich. The school has a strong reputation in the creative and performing arts. The Music Department has nearly 600 music lessons per week for pupils learning an instrument and there is a wide variety of orchestras, ensembles and groups, and over 270 children sing in the school choirs. At any one time there are some 45 music scholars in the school. Theatrical productions are frequent in the school's three venues for drama, including the professionally equipped Queen Elizabeth Theatre which is also used by the town and touring professional companies. The Richard Bull Centre houses a diversity of artistic enterprises from design technology to sculpture, textiles to jewellery. Scholarships are available in Art, Drama and Design & Technology. A whole range of societies and activities flourish, from 'dissection club' to chess and from the CCF to conservation.

Sport is outstanding and there is a considerable breadth of sport available at Oakham. (the school was the 'Daily Telegraph/Aviva Senior Sports School of the Year in 2009/10) The main sports are rugby, hockey and cricket for boys and hockey, netball and tennis for girls. In addition to this, the school has a strong reputation in sailing, rifle shooting, golf and swimming. In most years there are over fifty boys and girls who represent their county or country in a variety of sports.

Pupils are encouraged to be part of the wider life of the community and to see life beyond the East Midlands. This happens in a number of ways, through community service, through trips abroad, but most effectively through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Around 250 pupils participate in D of E activities every year and the school has a strong track record of success having achieved well over 5000 awards since first offering the scheme in 1960.

The richness and range of this activity is achieved within a full boarding environment operating seven days a week, with the term punctuated by weekend Leave Outs and Exeats (half term holidays). Term time can be intense, but rewarding: holidays are long. Members of staff are expected to involve themselves fully in the life of the school, helping with games and other activities outside the classroom. Special skills are welcomed but what matters most is a willingness to give time and energy generously.

The pastoral side of the school is well developed. All our pupils are members of one of the 16 houses, each with its own Housemaster or Housemistress, and every pupil has his or her own tutor. Tutors are responsible for a group of about a dozen pupils. All members of staff (including the Senior Leadership Team) have a specific pastoral role at Oakham.

Oakham is a Church of England foundation with an Anglican chaplain and a chapel which is in use every day. The school warmly welcomes those of other denominations. No-one is excluded from appointment on religious grounds but anyone intolerant of Christianity is unlikely to feel comfortable in the Oakham community.

Inspection Reports

Oakham School has recently undergone a very successful ISI Inspection (September 2013). The inspection reports can be viewed [here](#).

Application and Interviews

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to spend a day at the school and to meet the Deputy Head (Pastoral and Co-curricular) and the Director of Drama, as well as members of the department and other colleagues from the school. Further details will be forthcoming should you be shortlisted.

Candidates who wish to apply for this post should send their completed application form, covering letter stating where they saw the advertisement and CV giving details of two referees, to:

Mr Nigel Lashbrook, Headmaster
Oakham School
Chapel Close
Oakham
Rutland, LE15 6DT

or via email to Jackie Pridmore, School Administrator, jp2@oakham.rutland.sch.uk.

Initial enquiries should be directed to 01572 758506.

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The closing date for applications is Monday 26 February at noon.

Interviews will be held during week commencing March 5.

Under current legislation, we are required to advise applicants that this appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure. Oakham School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service. Details of any criminal record (spent or unspent, due to exemption from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974) must be disclosed at interview. Only relevant convictions and other information will be taken into account so disclosure need not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position at Oakham School. A copy of the Recruitment of Ex-offenders Policy is enclosed. For further details, please visit the Disclosure & Barring website.