



# HEAD OF PERFORMANCE

FULL-TIME FROM SEPTEMBER 2018



**RYDE SCHOOL  
WITH UPPER CHINE**

*An Island School with a Global Outlook*

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES





## THE ROLE

**Ryde School is seeking to appoint a creative and dynamic graduate to take on this new role working alongside the Head of Drama with responsibility for the School's dramatic productions, directing some performances, encouraging others and developing backstage teams and performance skills across the Senior School. He or she will teach a c75% timetable, sharing some of the teaching of curriculum drama but ideally able to teach in a second department.**

The Drama department at Ryde School is a busy, high profile department which engages a large number of pupils in annual productions whilst teaching academic courses at GCSE, 'A' Level and IB.

Drama is a very popular subject within the Senior School being taught across all years and offered at GCSE (where approximately one third of the year group study it), A Level and as an IB option at both Standard and Higher levels. In Year 7 & 8 pupils have one hour per week of Drama and in Year 9 it can be chosen as an option (usually by a good half of the year group) for two hours per week. Every year we tend to have one or two pupils leaving to study Drama at the prestigious drama schools of London and New York.

The department has one full and one part time teacher, hence the need for the successful candidate to teach a second subject. Both teachers teach across the whole of the senior school drama curriculum, including GCSE, A Level and IB. Lamda lessons are taught separately by a peripatetic teacher. The School produces high quality productions despite facilities which are due for development (a matter to be dealt with in the medium term and with the involvement of the post-holder.) It has its own classroom/rehearsal space and office and the Head of Drama manages and has lead access to the theatre, a flexible performance space located in the heart of the School as well as a large studio space shared with

the Music Department for teaching and rehearsals.

The successful applicant will be expected to teach Drama effectively across the Senior School but could focus on one area of the school in the second subject. Whilst we expect the post to suit qualified classroom teachers, the role might also suit a Drama practitioner looking to move into teaching and we would support someone wishing to take a PGCE if this seemed appropriate.

The successful candidate will have prime responsibility for the drama productions throughout the Senior School but will need to work closely and collaboratively with the Head of Drama who has responsibility for Drama teaching and curriculum and will certainly expect to be involved in productions too. Currently, a typical year in the Drama department would see a major production in November, a junior play in the second term and a musical in the summer, along with pupil led productions, an inter-house drama evening and performances by external companies. Staff from outside the department are encouraged to get involved too.

The Island has a number of small theatres and amateur companies but the School has a role to play in supporting and developing Drama on the Island, including bringing contemporary performance to the School. We are close to professional theatres in Chichester, Southampton and Portsmouth and have taken groups to productions in Oxford and London in recent years.



## RYDE SCHOOL WITH UPPER CHINE

**Ryde School, situated on the Isle of Wight, minutes from the mainland and international links yet also minutes from the beach, is a wonderful and rewarding place to work. The School is set in grounds of 17 acres in the town of Ryde, with beautiful views across the Solent. It is within walking distance of the terminals which link Ryde to Portsmouth by hovercraft (10 minutes) or catamaran (20 minutes). London Waterloo is only two hours away by train from Ryde.**

Ryde School was founded on 25 April 1921. Having merged with Upper Chine Girls' School in 1995 and Bembridge School in 1996, the School now has around 750 pupils between 3 and 18 years of age and is fully co-educational. There are approximately 60 boarders in the School, most of whom live on a beautiful 117-acre site in Bembridge with a small number of Sixth Formers living in a converted Georgian townhouse close to the School in Ryde. The remainder are day pupils from the Island with a small number commuting on a daily basis from Portsmouth. The Junior School shares part of the same site and all key facilities whilst Fiveways lies just across the road accommodating pupils from Foundation to Year 2.

The School aims to serve the local community as a whole which makes for a rich variety of skills and abilities amongst its pupils; in the last three years, for example, thirteen pupils secured offers at Cambridge and Oxford but other children will have over-achieved if they gain 5 GCSEs at A\* to C. Pupils enjoy not only academic success but success across many areas. In recent years we have had pupils selected for national sailing squads, RADA and the Marines Band for example and enjoyed national success in Maths, Debating and Engineering competitions. Unsurprisingly for such a setting, the School enjoys particular success in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme with 15 pupils securing their Gold Award last year. The Headmaster is a member of HMC and the Head of the Junior School of IAPS. Ryde is a Christian faith school whose visitor is the Bishop of Portsmouth and has close and growing links to our local parish church, All Saints. Pupils, parents and staff often comment on the supportive, friendly and positive atmosphere in the School and we have a strong reputation on the Island for academic standards, engineering and the arts.

Whilst serving a traditional community on the Island, the School's strategic planning, encouraged and supported by an ambitious governing body, is creative and global in its thinking. In 2015 we became the first independent school to offer the IBCP, a 16-18 qualification combining professional and academic learning and around a third of 6<sup>th</sup> form pupils now follow IB programmes. We have created a rich and challenging enrichment programme and teach five languages, including Mandarin, across the School. Years 7 and 8 follow a new curriculum based on the Prep School Bacc and all have a weekly 'Ryde Global' session that includes sailing and watersports. Boarding provision is growing and we recently announced plans to build a new boarding house on site and expand numbers to 90. We are developing pioneering programmes of pastoral care based on coaching and are in the middle of significant investment in teaching spaces. This is a good time for creative and innovative teachers to join the School.





## BENEFITS OF WORKING AT RYDE

The benefits of working at Ryde School are many. The school occupies a 17 acre site overlooking the Solent with a range of traditional and listed buildings alongside award-winning contemporary architecture. Competitive salaries, pension and health scheme memberships and fee reduction for children attending school alongside access to sailing, golfing and gym facilities and a daily lunch prepared in house are amongst the benefits enjoyed by staff, whilst working in a happy, rewarding and innovative environment focused on our pupils and their achievements.



Ryde School teachers are gifted individuals who are able to inspire pupils with their enthusiasm and subject knowledge. They are committed to providing high quality teaching as well as playing a full and purposeful role in the school's wide range of co-curricular activities, some of which occur at weekends and during school holidays. We encourage teachers to continue their professional development and will support where possible teachers wishing to develop their experience and academic qualifications..







## MOVING TO THE ISLAND

**We have more and more children joining the School as a result of their parents deciding to take advantage of Island life. The benefits of moving to the Island are clear – clean, open beaches, sailing and outdoor adventure and a real feeling of a safe, family environment in which to raise children, yet only minutes from the mainland where many parents choose to work either in London or other southern cities. As a member of staff you will also be able to enjoy all the Island has to offer.**

The uniqueness of the Island is the diversity of landscapes within it. Bustling towns, hills and farmland are combined with open beaches and sailing locations such as Cowes, the international home of Sailing. Known as the UK's Holiday Isle, the UK's Dinosaur Isle (due to the large number of dinosaur fossils found here on a regular basis) and an idyllic place to bring up children, the Island has a huge amount to offer our pupils and staff both in and outside the school day.

Ryde is one of the principal towns on the Isle of Wight and sits on the shores of the Solent roughly opposite the City of Portsmouth. Its development owes much to the move in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century of Queen Victoria to nearby Osborne House and has some impressive Victorian architecture. Island life combines a fascinating history and architecture with a modern vibrancy rich in bars, restaurants and culture. There are many farms and restaurants offering fresh food in contemporary settings. The Island is famous for its festivals; not just Cowes Week, the Isle of Wight Festival and Round the Island Race but also the Garlic Festival, Sweetcorn Festival and the many town carnivals each August.

Whilst the Island enjoys a distinct identity, it is easily connected with the south east of England and many residents commute daily to Portsmouth, London and the South East. Hover travel from the mainland is at most 10 minutes to Ryde and train links from Portsmouth and Southampton take around 90 minutes to London. Gatwick and Heathrow are around 90 minutes by car and there is a direct train link from Portsmouth to Gatwick Airport. Southampton airport has an ever-increasing number of international destinations.

The main Boarding house is situated on the edge of the thriving village of Bembridge, close to the sea and beach and twenty minutes' drive from the main school in Ryde.

Pupils and staff travel daily from towns and villages across the Island and some each day from Portsmouth. There is a wide range of accommodation available on the Island and often offering considerable value compared to housing on the other side of the Solent.



## THE CANDIDATE

### PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Obviously will be creative and original Will combine excellent inter-personal skills (there is a need to work sensitively but honestly with parents, staff and pupils), with a rigorous work ethic, stamina and a good sense of humour. Will be ambitious for pupils, expecting rigour and high standards of them whether in the classroom, on the stage or supporting backstage. Will be reflective of his or her practice, recognizing that in schools we are all part of a learning community. Will be highly organised but with a flexible and open mind.

### ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL

Will be a graduate but, whilst we expect the post to suit qualified classroom teachers, the role might also suit a Drama practitioner looking to move into teaching and we would support someone wishing to take a PGCE if possessing the correct skills. Will be interested in a variety of dramatic genres, able to direct/produce classical drama, musicals, devised pieces and contemporary theatre, as well as support and develop backstage crews.

### PASTORAL

Will be interested in, and ambitious for, staff and pupils alike, with a good understanding of the paramount importance of safeguarding and an interest in getting the very best out of all our pupils. Will recognise the importance of extra-curricular clubs and activity, and the need to offer support for both pupils with a strong background in theatre and those who will benefit significantly from working on or backstage but are less confident.

### VALUES

Will be sympathetic to the School's Christian ethos and value the intellectual curiosity and debate that comes from a liberal education. Will recognise the importance of developing in all pupils the ability to think critically and independently. Will share the view of the IB that all learners should be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective and will have those ambitions for him or herself.

Will value the diversity that comes from international students and students with a wide range of skills and abilities.

### INTERESTS AND COMMITMENT

Will be a person of wide, varied interests and will want to be involved in the extra-curricular life of a busy day and boarding school, able to participate in many areas of school life and appreciate, value and promote the myriad talents and diverse backgrounds our pupils possess. Will recognise that much rehearsal time needs to occur at weekends and after school and will be willing and able to commit to working at these times. Will be sympathetic to the idea that our children achieve their best inside the classroom when they are active, happy and successful outside it.





## GENERAL INFORMATION

Full-time teachers at Ryde are expected to play a full part in the extensive games and extra-curricular programme.

Ryde School is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. Offers of appointment are subject to satisfactory references, confirmation of qualifications and DBS clearance.

Applications, which should include a short, handwritten letter of application, should be addressed to Mr M A Waldron, Headmaster, by post, fax or email with a fully completed Ryde School Application Form, including the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two referees including the current employer.

If you have any further questions or require further information about this post please contact Mrs Helen Mason on 01983 617925 or [hjm@rydeschool.net](mailto:hjm@rydeschool.net)

Closing date for applications: midday, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Interviews will take place in Ryde on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January and will include a chance to visit the School and meet pupils and staff. Provision will be made for families of candidates to visit at the same time.