

## TEACHER OF DRAMA

### Maternity Cover

### January 2019

Whitgift is one of Britain's leading independent day and boarding schools for boys aged between 10 and 18 years with approximately 1460 pupils and 106 boarding or flexi-boarding pupils. The School, which was founded in 1596 by Elizabeth I's last Archbishop of Canterbury, John Whitgift, is one of the oldest in Croydon and enjoys facilities of outstanding quality, amongst the best available nationally. It is set in an attractive 48 acre parkland site in South Croydon with excellent links to London, Surrey and the south coast.

#### The Department

The English and Drama Department has grown in size and stature over the last few years, and both curricular and co-curricular segments of the Department are flourishing. With specialist staff providing academic lessons from the Lower First to the Upper Sixth, Drama is highly regarded within the School.

The Department is well-resourced, with a strong budget which allows us to create incredible productions, invite in practitioners and visiting workshops 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 – major productions throughout the year, and a planned company at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, as well as drama and backstage clubs.

The English and Drama Department at Whitgift is particularly innovative and energetic. Public examination results have been extremely good in recent years. At A Level, the 2018 A\*-B pass rate for Drama was 100% and at GCSE, 100% of pupils achieved A\*-B grades.

The Department is very busy and expectations within the School are very high. The successful candidate must be someone who is confident, proactive and reflective about their teaching, has excellent communication skills, is capable of contributing positively within a team and is committed to raising attainment through excellent teaching and learning.

Some of the recent plays that have been performed at the School include *The Government Inspector*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Doctor Faustus*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Boy Who Fell into a Book*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Lady Macbeth*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Summer's Last Will and Testament*, *The Crucible*, *Journey's End* and *Treasure Island*. The School also has a proud tradition in staging musicals, and recent productions have included *Guys and Dolls*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *West Side Story*, *Bugsy Malone*, *The Producers*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Performance opportunities exist for boys of all ages, with some productions confined to particular year groups. Auditions are always completely open, which renders performance drama accessible to everyone.

A number of Whitgift students have taken leading roles in many television productions, including *The Missing*, *War and Peace*, *Grandpa's Great Escape* and *Grantchester*, as well as starring in the West End in such shows as *The Lion King*, *Matilda*, *Motown The Musical*, and *Titus Andronicus* at the Globe Theatre.

## Curriculum

Boys in the Lower First to the Lower Third explore fundamentals of theatre and drama, with a focus on acting and performance. At this stage, pupils are taught to evaluate and analyse their own, and others', work. As boys progress through the School, the course takes 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 follows the CIE IGCSE specification for GCSE and the AQA course for A Level. The breadth and balance of the curriculum ensures that students are taught how to create and respond to drama, by working with a variety of stimuli from different sources and traditions. Courses in 'Theatre' and 'Literature and Performance' are currently offered for the International Baccalaureate. For practical examinations at GCSE, A Level and IB, pupils are encouraged to make text choices themselves; it is important that pupils feel comfortable with their choices and go on to flourish in their practical assessments.

## Current Vacancy

We are seeking to recruit a well-qualified and enthusiastic Teacher of Drama to start in January 2019 on a fixed-term, maternity cover. Applicants should be able to teach Drama across the age range up to GCSE and A Level Drama, and Lower School English (Years 6-9). For the right candidate there is the potential to take on additional responsibility as the Acting Head of Drama, and roles in the producing or directing. The post is suitable for experienced teachers; for those new to the profession, they would participate in our highly-regarded Schools Direct programme. A proactive culture of supporting and developing talented and inspiring teachers is supported by the Senior Management Team. For the right candidate additional responsibility as the Acting Head of Drama may be available.

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 resident and non-resident.

## Contact

Please feel free to contact Mr Ben Prestney on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail [bnp@whitgift.co.uk](mailto:bnp@whitgift.co.uk) if you have any questions or would like to know more.

## Conditions of Service

The salary will be on the Whitgift Foundation scale (substantially above national scale) according to qualifications and experience. Accommodation may be available. Assistance is offered towards removal expenses etc., up to £1,000 in total.

Staff are required 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 and house system is also anticipated.

We offer a generous salary and benefits package including membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (including Life Assurance cover), Employee Discount Club, discount on school fees for the Foundation Schools (permanent posts only), staff discount on off-peak membership at our on-site gym (Nuffield Health), membership of a healthcare plan, a range of family-friendly benefits and season ticket loan.

We welcome applications from all parts of our community as we aspire to attract staff that matches the social and cultural diversity of our student intake.

For further information and an online application form, please visit [www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies](http://www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies). For any general queries, please telephone the School Human Resources Department on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail [SchoolHR@whitgift.co.uk](mailto:SchoolHR@whitgift.co.uk).

Applications will be reviewed on a daily basis and interviews may occur at any stage after applications are received so we invite interested candidates to apply as soon as possible.

As a result of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, employers now have to verify that new recruits who are not British Nationals are eligible to work in this country. Therefore, any applicant who is offered an interview will be asked to provide official documentation to verify their ID, address and right to work in the UK. It is also normal practice for the School to ask for original qualifications and professional membership documents as detailed on their application.

***Whitgift School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service.***