

## Teacher of Drama (full-time maternity cover)

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The High School of Dundee is seeking to appoint, for March/April 2020, a well-qualified, enthusiastic and inspirational Teacher of Drama to join a friendly, committed and high-performing department.

The post is a full-time maternity cover post with a likely finishing date of March/April 2021. We would welcome applications from newly qualified teachers wishing to continue or complete their probationary year with us and achieve full registration with GTCS.

### The Drama Department

#### **Staffing**

The Drama Department is currently composed of two full time teachers; one Head of Department and one other teacher. Each member of the department teaches a wide range of classes, from L5-7 in the Junior Years to F6 pupils at Advanced Higher level. Each member of staff makes a valuable contribution to all areas of departmental work. At present, for example, both staff share responsibility for teaching the F6 Advanced Higher class.

#### **Accommodation and Resources**

The department has two main teaching areas; one large fully equipped drama studio, with seating for approximately thirty and a multi-purpose classroom space. The drama studio has a full lighting rig, with 24 lanterns and a portable T-bar stand. A digital lighting board and sound system are resources used by F3 – F6 during the course of their studies. There is also a projector, Apple TV and two computers with internet access.

The classroom can be used as a traditional classroom. It is equipped with tables, chairs, a projector, Apple TV and a computer. It can also be used for practical performance work and is suitable for design planning. Pupils are encouraged to utilise all areas of the department in their studies. The staff base has a colour printer and two computers for the use of staff only.

#### **Curriculum and Timetable**

The department provides courses for all six years of secondary education, as well as for the upper three years of primary, with timetabling arrangements as follows:

L5, L6 and L7: classes of approximately 15-20 Junior Years pupils are organised on a rota basis throughout the year.

F1: classes of approximately 20 pupils attending for one period per week.

F2: Classes of approximately 20 pupils to attend for one double period per week.

F3/4: National 5. Approximately 30 pupils divided into 2 sets. Each member of staff has one of two sections.

F5/6: One Higher Drama class of normally around 10 – 16 pupils. Seven periods per week. Currently taught by Head of Department.

F6: One Advanced Higher Drama class. Seven periods per week. Currently both staff have shared responsibility for the learning and teaching of this class.

## **Attainment**

The department enters pupils for Scottish exams administered by the SQA. It caters for a range of abilities and the level of pupil attainment is generally very high indeed: it is customary in SQA exams for a 100% pass rate to be achieved at all levels. In 2017 88% of drama pupils across all levels achieved an A grade in Drama. In 2019 at National 5 21 candidates achieved 100% pass with 90% at A and at Higher 14 candidates achieved 100% pass with 71% at A.

High standards of attainment are expected in all areas of departmental work, staff are expected to encourage and facilitate pupil learning by offering guidance and support whenever possible; this may mean extra work outwith the normal timetabled classes. Essential to the department's success in pupil attainment, is the reinforcement and support staff give to theatre visits and experiences which help foster a creative involvement in the arts. The department has strong links with Dundee Rep's Education Department, enhancing pupil learning through participation in various workshops on offer. In one term, for example, the department may make as many as five theatre trips, to various venues in Scotland, with certificate pupils. All certificate pupils are given the opportunity to present their practical work to parents and friends in a series of evening performance platforms to which Drama staff would be expected to attend.

Over the past few years pupils have gone on to further study either in Film and Theatre Studies, Acting or Technical Theatre at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow University, Queen Margaret University, Royal Holloway in London for Musical Theatre and several others to Dundee College for HND/HNC courses in Acting and Performance.

## **Co-curricular**

The Drama Department is committed to contributing to the whole school ethos and integrated co-curricular activities of all pupils. There is normally a F1 Drama Club after school and either a F2/3 play and/or a F4-6 play in production. The drama staff also direct and produce a whole school musical bi-annually.

Information on all our previous productions is available to view on the school's website. This session F1/2 pupils have presented the play 'Bugsy Malone' and the F4-6 pupils are currently in rehearsal for 'Grease' which takes place in June 2020. In addition to the productions our pupils have taken part in the Shakespeare School's Festival and performances at Dundee Rep. Rehearsals for these activities take place during lunchtimes, after school and at some weekends. Production week for any of the large-scale shows requires staff to be available to work for often quite long periods of time out with normal school hours. Each session drama staff contribute to other performance related activities such as talent shows, staff pantomimes and whole school fund raising opportunities. There have been Performing Arts Trips to Italy, London and the USA.

## **The Post**

The main features of the remit include:

- The teaching of Drama from L5 – F6
- Preparation of pupils for all examinations
- Curricular development as directed by the Head of Department
- Involvement in co-curricular activities, productions, theatre trips and visits linked to the department and to include the wider aspects of school life

- Pupil discipline within the department
- Meet with parents and colleagues as required

## The Candidate

Candidates should have a degree or equivalent in a related subject and be registered with the GTC Scotland, or be eligible for registration. They should also have experience of teaching Drama and should be able to demonstrate initiative, as well as a commitment to excellence.

The successful applicant should possess creativity, enthusiasm and a dynamic approach to the teaching of Drama. Excellent verbal and written communication skills are essential, as is the ability to interact positively with parents and colleagues. Due to the specific requirements of the courses, proficiency in theatre technology and design is important. Candidates with Dance as an additional skill would be particularly welcome.

All staff as a condition of appointment contribute to the wider co-curricular life of the school.

## Additional Information

Salary will be according to the High School of Dundee salary scales which are above the national rate.

A completed application form, accompanying letter together with a full CV and the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of **two** referees, should be emailed to: [rector@highschoolofdundee.org.uk](mailto:rector@highschoolofdundee.org.uk)

Closing date for applications is **Wednesday 19 February 2020**