



Teacher of Drama

Information Pack

Completed applications should be emailed to recruitment@mgs.org

Closing date: 09:00 on Tuesday 26 February 2019

Teacher of Drama

We are seeking to appoint, from 1 September 2019, a teacher of Drama to join our highly successful department. We are looking for a talented teacher, whether experienced or newly qualified, who is able to share their passion for the subject with our lively and talented pupils. The successful candidate will be expected to teach across the age range of the senior school.

The Drama department

The successful candidate will join a large and vibrant department of five teachers and four specialist theatre technicians. The department has an excellent record over many years in public examinations, routinely achieving 95-100% A/A* grades at GCSE and A Level. Students regularly go on to study Drama at university and at drama schools.

In the first year in the senior school (Year 7), Drama is taught in mixed ability groups, with an emphasis on discrete assessment of practical skills in creating work, performing work and responding to work. In Year 8, pupils refine and develop their practical skills, working with text and collaborating on devised projects, culminating in the 'Grimm Festival', a celebration of practical work showcased in performance. Boys may elect to study Drama in Year 9, and it is a popular subject, regularly chosen by over half of the year group. At this stage pupils will experience live theatre performance and work with contemporary texts, and are introduced to devising documentary and 'epic' theatre. In Years 10 and 11 we follow the AQA GCSE specification. At this level, pupils work on devising sophisticated and entertaining work of their own, as well as the study and presentation of scripted pieces. Pupils can also study the GCSE following the designer's route. In the last three years, 98% (on average) gained an A or A* (or numerical equivalent) at GCSE.

In the Sixth Form, we typically have two dedicated sets of pupils opting to take A-level (OCR) Drama each year. Boys are encouraged to produce dynamic and challenging theatre, fusing theoretical and practical knowledge. This is enhanced by an extensive roster of theatre visits, both locally and nationally, as well as input from practitioners.

Alongside the regular curriculum, the department also offers pupils the opportunity to study for the LAMDA acting and public speaking qualifications. This is an over-subscribed and popular addition to the department's profile, and it is desirable that the successful candidate also contribute to the teaching and delivery of these examinations.

The department places considerable emphasis on teaching beyond the syllabus and allowing teaching staff to select and explore material which excites and stimulates them. At the core of all of the department's teaching is the notion that pupils will 'Create, Perform and Respond' to work, and the material selected to deliver this strategy is as diverse as it unusual.

Members of the department are experienced at preparing boys for practical exams, and most work as senior examiners for exam boards. In addition, they make frequent contributions to the School's diverse co-curricular drama programme. Recent productions, sometimes in collaboration with local girls' schools, have included *Pool (No*

Water), *Guys and Dolls*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Little Shop Of Horrors*, *Avenue Q* and *Our Country's Good*, *Assassins*, *Macbeth* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. These productions are in addition to regular showcases of curriculum work for parents and the school community. The successful candidate would be expected to make a contribution to the department's co-curricular programme.

The department is well equipped, with an outstanding 210-seat theatre with a full lighting and sound rig, orchestra pit and fly tower, along with four drama studio spaces. Theatre technicians work to support boys in their endeavours, both in curriculum and co-curricular work.

Alongside their teaching duties, all teaching staff have a pastoral role as form tutors and contribute to the co-curricular programme of the School.

How to apply

Candidates of any age and any level of experience are invited to apply. Appropriate induction and support will be given. MGS provides full support to enable NQTs to obtain QTS; the School also will consider providing funding and support for a suitable unqualified teacher to complete a PGCE.

The Manchester Grammar School has its own generous salary scale, and pays significantly above main scale rates.

Applicants should complete an application form: this can be downloaded from the vacancies section of the School's website, and emailed to recruitment@mgs.org. The closing date is 9.00am on Tuesday 26 February, and we expect to hold interviews shortly afterwards.

The Manchester Grammar School is an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from all sections of the community. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and successful applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Our Safer Recruitment policy may be viewed on our website (click on 'our policies' at the bottom of the homepage).

We would like to thank all applicants for their interest in the School and for taking the time to apply. However, please note that, because of the high volume of applications we receive, we regret that we are unable to reply individually to each application. Applicants who have not heard from us by 4 March should assume that they have not been shortlisted for interview.

February 2019

Why work at MGS?

The School

The Manchester Grammar School has a long and distinguished history, and is an exciting, stimulating and rewarding community in which to work.

It was founded in 1515, by Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter, to prepare able boys from the Manchester area, regardless of their background, to go to Oxford or Cambridge. The School has gained an international reputation for academic excellence, and enjoys a strong record of success with top universities, both in the UK and overseas.

We take our motto, Sapere Aude ('Dare to be Wise'), as meaning that we must challenge our pupils and expect to be challenged by them, and this is one of the things which makes teaching at MGS so rewarding.

Bursaries and social mobility

MGS's Foundation Bursary Appeal has been the most successful appeal of its kind held by any school and is a cornerstone of our ethos. Its aim is to ensure that a place at MGS is available to any boy who passes our entrance assessments, regardless of his family's financial background. More than 200 boys currently receive full or partial means-tested bursaries. (The average bursary is 90% of the school fee.) Our long-term ambition is to be needs-blind, so that every boy who passes our entrance assessments can take up a place, regardless of his parents' ability to pay.

Our pupils

The School comprises over 1550 boys in Years 3 to 13. All boys are assessed for entry on the basis of their considerable potential by observing their individual talents in imaginative lessons. A formal entrance exam only plays a part in entry to Year 7. Our admissions policy aims to be needs-blind to enable the School to be a diverse community of talented individuals from all backgrounds.

Boys come from across the North-West and from every type of background, and the boys who join the School each year come in equal numbers from maintained and independent primary schools.

Our teachers

Staff at MGS come from every walk of life. Every year we welcome to our staff NQTs as well as experienced teachers. We expect all applicants to have a good degree. However, a teaching qualification, whilst desirable, is not essential; we can and do provide full support for those who wish to become qualified after appointment. Often teachers who have taught for a number of years join us to gain extra experience before moving on to become a head of department elsewhere. We are deeply committed to the professional development of our staff. Many colleagues have gone on to deputy headships and headships elsewhere; likewise, many staff choose to stay with us.

People who teach here will have a love of their subject and will have the ability to inspire and challenge able pupils. Our teachers enjoy making an active contribution to co-curricular activities, both for the reward of the activity itself and because of the different dimension it gives to their relationship with their pupils.

Our co-curriculum

The co-curriculum is central to the ethos of MGS. Life outside the classroom is extraordinarily vibrant, both in terms of its diversity and quantity, and is a source of great enjoyment and challenge for our pupils and staff alike. It includes a vast amount and range of sport, music, drama, adventure, service and intellectual activities.

The School values the passion and commitment of its teachers in sharing their interests and enthusiasms with pupils outside of the classroom and seeks to enable staff to play to their passions whenever possible. Staff are given great autonomy over the activities they organise, and our pupils are given equal freedom to develop passions of their own.

Some numbers may best illustrate what we offer. We have over 150 clubs and societies, 95 representative sports teams and 40 different sports. We have 24 musical groups with 280 participants, and typically more than a dozen drama productions each year.

Every year 250 pupils go on four week-long camps and we have overseas treks; we offer a wide range of outdoor pursuits and are one of the largest centres for D of E in the North-West. Alongside this there is a vast range of educational trips and visits, both in the UK and abroad. On average, each pupil spends twelve days a year on trips.

In 2018 *School Sport* magazine named Manchester Grammar School as the best school for sport in the North of England, and placed the School in the top five schools nationally.

Visit our website to find out more.

Our facilities

Facilities are excellent. Recent developments have included the purchase of a new Steinway Model D grand piano for the Memorial Hall. There is also a new sports hall, astro-turf and major upgrades to our multi-gym, swimming pool and sports pitches. We have an exceptionally equipped theatre and drama studios and award-winning Junior School buildings.

Manchester and the North-West

Manchester is a vibrant and exciting place, as you would fully expect of Britain's second city. One of the fastest growing cities in Europe, it has a cosmopolitan outlook, a flourishing, varied cultural life and excellent restaurants and nightlife. It is a wonderful, stimulating place to live, with outstanding sport and leisure facilities, catering for every possible interest.

Theatre is vibrant and diverse, with venues including the innovative Royal Exchange, Home, The Lowry (in Salford Quays), Palace Theatre and Opera House. The Bridgewater

Hall is an international centre of musical excellence and home to three major orchestras, whilst the Manchester Evening News Arena, the Apollo and many smaller venues contribute to the diverse range of music on offer in the city.

Befitting a city with such rich history and traditions, Manchester has excellent galleries and museums, and is, of course, a major centre for soccer, cricket, cycling and many other sports. Media City in Salford (adjacent to Manchester) is one of the country's most important centres for television and radio production, and is growing all the time.

Whilst offering all that you would expect from a major city, Manchester has the advantage of being very accessible and enjoys excellent transport links. London is only two hours away by train and Manchester's international airport is only five miles from the School. Areas of outstanding natural beauty are close by. The Peak District National Park, the Pennine Way and the Cheshire Plain are within an hour's drive, whilst the Lake District and Snowdonia are within two hours.

There is a wide choice of places to live, with ample rented accommodation. Property prices compare very favourably with those elsewhere in the country. Many staff live in the South Manchester suburbs, but others live surrounded by the Pennine moors or the Derbyshire hills. There is an excellent choice of schools, both private and maintained, at all levels.

For more information about the city, visit www.visitmanchester.com.