



Thomas's Kensington
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London W8 5PR

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General information

Thomas's Kensington is an independent, coeducational preparatory school for boys and girls aged 4 to 11. It is part of Thomas's London Day Schools, a family-run group of schools which educates 1,800 children in four preparatory schools and two kindergartens in central London. The schools share the same Principals, but each school has its own Headmaster or Headmistress. There are 394 pupils at Thomas's Kensington.

The school espouses a broad curriculum, with an emphasis on high academic standards, alongside a strong commitment to Art, Ballet, Drama, Music and PE. It is structured in two stages: the Lower School (Reception to Year 2), and the Prep School (Years 3 to 6) with an emphasis on enjoyment, learning and performance as each child moves up through the school.

Thomas's Kensington is a Christian school, open to children of all faiths. The most important school rule is "Be Kind" and the school places a high priority on kindness, courtesy, appearance, independent learning, confidence, humility and being givers, not takers.

The school is selective at the age of three and will almost always offer places to siblings. This gives us an academic range and fosters tremendous loyalty and support from many families, some of whom may be with us for more than 15 years. The most able pupils will gain top scholarships to some of the most selective senior schools in the country. We hope that all of them, supported and encouraged by their teachers, peers and parents, will be able to identify at least one area of strength within the broad curriculum.

Drama Department

At the heart of Thomas's lies the broad curriculum and at the heart of the broad curriculum lies Drama. Great importance has been attached to Drama since the schools were founded by Joanna Thomas, who was an actress before she started the first kindergarten. We have long recognised the central role that Drama can play in fostering confidence, teamwork and self-knowledge.

The department currently comprises two Drama teachers, one full-time and one part-time, who teach one lesson a week to every class in the school.

In addition, the school places a very strong emphasis on performance and a strong affinity with theatre direction will be essential. Every year group stages a production every year, with each class performing the production separately, ranging in scope from the Reception Nativity plays through to the Year 6 production, which is performed as a whole year group and, in recent years, has been *Olivia* (2015), *Guys and Dolls* (2014), *Annie* (2013) and *Oklahoma* (2012). The Year groups in between present a range of styles of drama: mime, puppet shows, straight plays and pantomimes. Year 6 perform their show in the theatre at Imperial

College which is a short walk away from the school building, while all other productions are staged in the Thomas's Kensington theatre which is a 70 seater drama studio. The productions are fully supported with a very generous budget, professional sound and light technology, tiered seating and support from the Senior Management Team and members of staff: each production is given four 'block days' when the normal timetable is suspended in favour of block, technical and dress rehearsals.

The post of Head of Drama at Thomas's Kensington is undeniably challenging. It requires great enthusiasm, energy and organisational skills. It is also an opportunity to be a part of a vibrant, friendly, purposeful staff body and a school that sees Drama as being a subject of central importance.

This role falls within the category of regulated activity, therefore you will be required to have an enhanced DBS check and a barred list check. Should you receive any cautions or convictions whilst in our employment these must be reported immediately to your line manager.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment and work in accordance with our child protection policies and procedures.

The post holder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom he/she is responsible, or with whom he/she comes into contact will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's policies at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post, the post holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the school, he/she must report any concerns to the school's Safeguarding Officer or Deputy Safeguarding Officer.