



**TEACHER OF DRAMA
FROM SEPTEMBER 2018**

The Portsmouth Grammar School is a leading co-educational school located in the historic heart of Portsmouth. The school is an IB World School and offers the IB Diploma alongside A Level.

The Drama Department is one of the most popular and vibrant in the school, and enjoys an outstanding reputation not only within the school community but also far beyond it. The school has excellent facilities including a modern and versatile theatre space and plans are underway for a new Performing Arts Centre which will offer state of the art provision for both Drama and Music.

We are seeking to appoint a well-qualified teacher who can inspire pupils throughout Years 7-13. The successful candidate is likely to have experience of directing plays and other performances, as well as teaching across Key Stages 3-5, although we welcome applications from teachers new to the profession or seeking to gain an appropriate teaching qualification. The school offers excellent training and support to teachers at all stages of their career. Experience of teaching IB is not required.

The newly-appointed Teacher of Drama will assist in maintaining the high profile of the Department in the school and in the local area; he or she will continue to make Drama a popular option for pupils by ensuring excellent teaching and contributing to co-curricular activities such as clubs, theatre visits and tours. The appointee would be expected to assist with the direction of the Year 7 and 8 play and would also assist with the running of the weekly Middle School Drama Club.

Drama is taken by all pupils in Years 7 and 8 and becomes an option in Year 9, and again in Year 10 when the GCSE course starts. Each year some 30-40 pupils take the subject to GCSE and around 10 follow it through to IB Diploma or A Level. The Department currently uses the AQA Specification for GCSE and A Level. The results in public examinations are of a high standard; in 2017 82% achieved A*- B at GCSE (65% A*-A) and 100% A*-B at A Level (80% A*-A). In the IB, 75% achieved level 7.

The Drama Department is housed in the Gatehouse, originally a Victorian school and Grade II listed, which has been recently refurbished. Downstairs are two teaching rooms; upstairs are three studios, separated by soundproofed doors which can be opened to form a large performance space. There are lighting grids and a lighting desk in the studios,

together with a sound system, a ceiling mounted video projector and wifi access. Further enhancement in Autumn 2016 saw the installation of a state of the art LED lighting system.

For larger performances the school has its own 300-seat David Russell Theatre, opened in 2006, with a flexible performing space, lighting and sound. The annual School Musical is performed at the 1300-seat Kings Theatre in Southsea, a fine Matcham theatre. Productions have also been staged at another Matcham theatre, the New Theatre Royal, and at a wide variety of venues across the city including HMS Warrior and Southsea Castle.

Productions are performed on a number of occasions in the school year. The PGS Musical is performed at the end of the Autumn Term and recent productions have been *Crazy For You*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and, in 2017, *Into The Woods*. Close relationships with the Kings Theatre allow the pupils to become involved in the technical side of the productions. At the end of the Spring Term plays are performed by Year 9 and 10 pupils. In 2017 this was *Undernight* in the DRT, although there is scope to be creative in the choice of venue, subject and form – such as ‘Fine’ a professionally shot film in 2017 involving actors, staff and pupils on the subject of bereavement. In the Summer Term the Middle School Play or Musical is performed. Recent productions have been *Whalesong*, a newly commissioned work, *The Lion King* and *Swallows and Amazons*, all of which have been extremely successful. The Department has taken several productions to the Edinburgh Festival in recent years and last year pupils toured to the Avignon Festival. In addition, the Sixth Form produce a site-specific performance of a play, generally classical or ‘modern classic’; in 2016 *The Misanthrope* was performed at the Royal Naval Club in Portsmouth and in 2017 pupils created a devised piece *17*, performed in the Gatehouse. Pupils perform in the Portsmouth Festivities, with which the school is closely associated, sometimes in plays written for them. The Department also runs Drama trips both locally and abroad.

The Drama Department consists of three full-time teachers, together with the Director in Residence, the Theatre Technician and two LAMDA teachers. There is often a gap year student attached to the Department. All members of the Department teach across the full age range. A Director in Residence is appointed every 12-18 months, to assist in or direct the production of the Musical and direct other plays in their own right.

Drama clubs exist for pupils from different parts of the school and are very popular. A stage crew of pupils assists with the technical side of productions and assessments and is run by the theatre technician. A number of pupils go on to study Drama at university or Drama school each year and after graduating many continue to have successful careers in performing, directing or stage management. Former pupils also include the dramatist Simon Gray, the poet and actor Christopher Logue, and the Hammer Horror star Michael Ripper.

The post offers exceptional opportunities of an academic and co-curricular nature to develop the study and performance of Drama within an outstandingly well resourced, happy and successful school. The successful applicant will also be expected to contribute to the pastoral life of PGS.

Initial Teacher Training

The school has an established reputation for initial teacher training. We work closely with the University of Southampton and the Independent Schools Teacher Induction Panel to design a course that plays to the strengths of each individual teacher. In the first year, initial training is provided by a subject specific mentor and supplemented by our in house induction process. In the second year this training is enriched by enabling a teaching sabbatical at a link school in the maintained sector, at a time mutually convenient for all involved. This provides invaluable experience of teaching in a different educational setting, provides further professional development and enables an application to achieve Qualified Teacher Status. Following the successful attainment of Qualified Teacher Status, teachers commence their NQT year with us.

Benefits

The Portsmouth Grammar School prides itself on being a caring employer and all staff are encouraged to discuss any aspects of their terms and conditions of employment initially with their line manager and, as necessary, with the Bursar who signs all contracts of employment on behalf of the Governing Body.

The school is a strong supporter of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and its INSET programme provides staff with many personal development opportunities. Examples of school support include financial support for further education such as Masters Degrees.

The school has recently developed with the University of Portsmouth two specific accredited part time Masters Short Courses known as the Developing Educational Leadership and Management (DELM) and Human Resource Management in Education. On completion of each unit 30 Masters Credits are awarded.

Governors annually allow up to three staff to take a half term sabbatical on full-pay in the summer term, with most expenses of the sabbatical covered. The aim of sabbaticals is to develop further professional expertise and also to provide an opportunity for staff to reflect on other aspects of their teaching. Sabbaticals may be based in the UK or overseas.

Key financial benefits of employment at PGS include a generous salary structure supplemented by payment of an additional PGS Allowance. There are many opportunities to take on additional paid responsibilities to assist in the management and operation of the school. The school participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

The school also has a generous fee concession for the children of teaching staff. The school supports the Cycle to Work scheme and accepts Government's Child Care Vouchers.

The school may be able to offer subsidised rental accommodation in Old Portsmouth, for up to one academic year. Please state in your application if this is of interest to you.

All members of staff have free use of the school's sports facilities which include a well-

equipped Fitness Centre. A two course lunch is provided to all staff during term time.

The school is always looking for innovative ways to improve the working conditions and remuneration of its employees and welcomes suggestions from all staff.

How to Apply

PGS is committed to safeguarding children and the successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure DBS check.

Further information is available on the website at www.pgs.org.uk, under the About Us section, or can be requested from the school on 023 9236 4228. An electronic application would be preferable, submitted to HR@pgs.org.uk. All applicants should complete an application form, and send a covering letter and full curriculum vitae. Postal applications should be addressed to The Headmaster, The Portsmouth Grammar School, High Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 2LN. Please include email addresses whenever available. All applications should be accompanied by the names, addresses, email and telephone numbers of three referees.

The closing date is noon 27 February 2018 and early applications are encouraged. Interviews will be held on Thursday 8 March 2018 and shortlisted candidates are asked to allow the whole day for the interview process.

February 2018