

CRANLEIGH SCHOOL



DIRECTOR OF DRAMA (MATERNITY COVER)

Cranleigh School seeks to appoint, for September 2017, a lively, enthusiastic, well qualified and talented Director of Drama to lead the further development of an impressive department. This post is initially offered as a Maternity Cover – 1 year FTC. The successful candidate will also be willing to contribute on a wider basis to the life of this friendly and busy boarding school.

Cranleigh School is a leading fully co-educational independent boarding and day Senior School consisting of around 630 girls and boys of 13 – 18 years of age. There is also a Preparatory School on the opposite side of the road which has around 330 girls and boys.

THE DEPARTMENT

Drama is a very important part of school life, and many parents, pupils and staff are quickly struck by how seriously Cranleigh approaches performance in all its forms. Indeed, many pupils cite the standard of Drama at Cranleigh as one of the reasons they chose the school. The department is a very busy one both academically and in the co-curricular sphere.

This lively department currently consists of the Director of Drama, a full time teacher of Drama, a full time Theatre Manager plus other members of Common Room teaching drama across the year groups. Drama is offered from Year 9 through an options system and currently around 75% of the year group choose the subject. We regularly teach around 30-40 students for GCSE and between 8-12 at A-Level. Some students will replace a performance with a lighting, sound or costume design.

The department is housed in a distinct area with two classrooms, a departmental office, a studio “black box” space, and various overflow spaces which are used for group practical work. Cranleigh also has its own studio theatre – the Vivian Cox Theatre (which seats about 100), and a large performance space located in the main school hall, the Speech Hall, with a capacity of between 200-350 for theatre productions.

Co-curricular Drama is a large part of the department's role and three Main School shows of high quality are performed each year in the main venues. There is also a regular programme of House Plays where students take the lead as directors. It is expected that the successful applicant will lead the schedule of productions upholding Cranleigh Drama's commitment to varied and sometimes experimental work. The school offer a musical on a biannual basis. Recent productions include "A Flea in her Ear", the musical "Les Misérables" and an immersive theatre piece "Alice in Wonderland". The most recent Junior (lower school) play was a double bill of "Treasure Island" followed by "A Brave New World". The school upholds high standards of theatre production and there is a large and active technical and stage management team.

THE CURRICULUM

We follow the EDUQAS (formally WJEC) syllabus at GCSE, teaching the new specification with the current LVth. This qualification consists of three components - Devising Theatre, Performance from a Text and Interpreting Theatre (written examination) for which we have chosen to study "War Horse" as the set text.

We have now chosen to switch to EDUQAS at A-Level with the first pupils sitting for the linear A-Level in the summer of 2018. The A-Level also breaks down into three components: Theatre Workshop, for which the current LVIth are working on pieces in the style of Brecht and Katie Mitchell; text in Action (a further two performances in the UVIth) and Text in Performance (written exam) for which we have chosen to study "Trojan Women" and "Accidental Death of an Anarchist".

The Department has a strong track record in examination results, last year for example at A-Level we achieved 63% A*A, and 100% A*B. At GCSE we achieved with 19% A*, 54% achieving A*A, 85% A*B and 100% pass rate at A*- C.

Further information is available on our web site at www.cranleigh.org or at <http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre/index.html>.

The accompanying information 'Why teach at Cranleigh?' (available on the website under Academic Vacancies), gives an impression of the ethos to which it is expected that the successful candidate will contribute.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION

A Head of Department at Cranleigh is responsible to the Head and to the Deputy Head Academic and is expected to operate effectively in three broad areas:

- Academic leadership
- Administration
- Team management

Specific responsibilities include:

- teaching to the highest standard across all year groups, aiming to be the foremost exponent of the teaching of the subject within the department;
- overseeing the continuing development of the schemes of work across the age-range;
- keeping abreast of changes to the curriculum and, in conjunction with the Deputy Head Academic, choosing specifications for the department;
- taking responsibility for staffing, rooming, timetabling and setting for the department;
- leading weekly departmental meetings;

- ensuring the continued professional development of all members of the department;
- providing written reports, report grades and summative assessment marks and departmental reviews by the deadlines set;
- contributing to the preparation of students for tertiary education (including Oxbridge);
- managing the department budget;
- overseeing the departments extensive co-curricular output;
- directing productions.

THE PERSON

Leading a high profile department in such a busy school with rigorous academic and co-curricular responsibility requires very high levels of organisation, enthusiasm, energy and commitment. We aim to recruit a visionary leader to guide the department through the current curriculum changes, capitalising on the opportunities they provide. The successful candidate will set an outstanding example through his or her teaching, and contribute to strategic planning at Heads of Departments' meetings. They will also be committed to maintaining the very high standard of productions at Cranleigh. This position may suit a person looking to take the first leap into middle management or someone with more experience of running a busy department.

In addition he/she would be expected to get involved in all aspects of this busy boarding school including acting as a tutor to a group of students within a House including some of the delivery of the school's PSHEE programme. This would normally include one evening duty per week. All teachers are expected to contribute to the School's co-curricular programme and co-curricular activities alongside their academic responsibilities.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the post informally, please get in touch with Nikki Plowman, Director of Drama by email in the first instance: np@cranleigh.org

THE APPOINTMENT

The appointment is from September 2017, initially for one year fixed term maternity cover.

Candidates should state fully what their particular interests are and where they think they can make contributions to the wider life of the school.

Cranleigh School has its own salary scales significantly above the maintained sector and the successful applicant will be offered a salary commensurate with their qualifications and experience. Accommodation is available if required and salaries are adjusted accordingly. Significant fee concessions are available at both Cranleigh Preparatory School and Cranleigh School.

To apply, please submit a brief letter of application together with a completed Application Form, available on the School's website, supported by a full Curriculum Vitae and to include the names and contact details of two referees.

Applications should arrive no later than **9.30 am on Friday 17th February** and should be sent to:

The Headmaster, Cranleigh School, Horseshoe Lane, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8QQ or via email to mrp@cranleigh.org

We are committed to the safeguarding of children and enhanced disclosure screening will apply to this post.