



Director of Drama

Job Description

1. Introduction

Chengdu Westminster School, located in Shuangliu District, is the first school to be launched in China as part of the long-term collaboration between Hong Kong Melodious Education and Technology Group and Westminster School, London.

Chengdu Westminster School comprises:

- Kindergarten (ages 1-5)
- Primary (ages 6-12)
- Junior Middle School (ages 12-15)
- Senior School (ages 15-18).

Chengdu Westminster School will provide bilingual education to our pupils throughout, with the opportunity to board from age 9 onwards, with boarding for all from age 12 in the Junior Middle School. In Primary and Junior Middle School, the Chinese National Curriculum forms the core curriculum, with elements of the Westminster curriculum and pedagogy. In Senior School, CWS follows the IGCSE and A level curriculum models.

Chengdu Westminster School occupies a new site, and the campus for 2,700 students will be ready for its first intake of students in September 2021. The bilingual education of Chengdu Westminster School will prepare pupils for life beyond the campus, as the confident bilinguals, with access to leading universities worldwide.

Chengdu Westminster will become a centre of academic excellence. This success will derive from the pupils' enjoyment of academic enquiry, debate and search for explanation well beyond any published syllabus. Central to the school ethos, and reflecting the values of Westminster School London, will be the dialogue between teachers and their pupils, both inside and outside the classroom. This will inspire passion for learning, conveying knowledge as well as developing the skills of rational, independent thought. The academic success will be matched by outstanding student achievements in co-curricular, which offers a wide range

of opportunities to CWS pupils. While the academic and cultural attainments are highly prized, the Westminster ethos is also fully committed to the nurture of each pupil's spiritual, moral, emotional and physical development with an overriding emphasis on pastoral care to support the wellbeing of all in the community whilst drawing out the individual talent wherever it lies – and to the preparation of responsible young people for fulfilled private and public lives beyond School.

The school campus will be happy, busy and purposeful; the pupils will be intellectually, socially, and ethically engaged, with abundant opportunities to develop initiatives and to articulate and defend their viewpoints. Individual and corporate excellence are expected and promoted.

Applications are invited for this full-time post commencing 1 August 2021.

CWS is recruiting an inspirational Director of Drama who will have the vision to create a Drama department deeply embedded in the culture of the School and its wider academic programme.

This is an exciting opportunity to create a department that will be expected to play a central role in the life of the school. The post holder must be committed to participating fully in the life of a boarding community of young people and their teachers

2. Key responsibilities

1. To plan and deliver the programme of Drama productions in the School, in collaboration with the Heads of Drama in the Primary and Junior Middle Schools
2. To support pupil devised and produced Drama productions
3. To ensure the safeguarding of the pupils at all times
4. To plan and deliver the programme of Academic Drama within the Senior School, for preparing pupils for CAIE IGCSE and A level courses as well as
5. To develop schemes of work that challenge, and inspire pupils and staff alike
6. To establish and oversee the contribution of the Drama department to the school's co-curricular provision, including after school activities as well as opportunities for pupils to engage in Drama as members of a boarding community
7. To develop drama in the School in terms of standard, repertoire and opportunities for performances; drama should not only be the preserve of those taking as a Drama academic subject but offered to all pupils in the School where talent is shown'
8. To oversee the development of Drama Studios in collaboration with the Heads of Drama in the Primary and Junior Middle School

9. To oversee budgeting for and administering all aspects of staffing, development and maintenance of the School's Drama facilities and school productions
10. To organise visiting theatre companies, residences, workshops and master-classes where appropriate
11. To arrange theatre trips where appropriate
12. To promote Drama within the School
13. To advise and support pupils wishing to study Drama beyond School
14. To establish a sense of place in the Drama department as a friendly welcoming environment where working modes and relationships clearly complement the classroom environment
15. To organise an annual Drama Competition e.g. a House Drama Competition

3. Living and working in Chengdu

Chengdu is the capital of Sichuan province in southwestern China. With a history tracing back to 2400 years ago when the first Shu emperor built its capital there, Chengdu is known as one of the earliest settlements in the southwest. Since ancient times, it has been called 'the Abundant Land' due to its favourable climate, fertile soil and excellent irrigation.

With some 10 million inhabitants of its urban area and some 14 million in its wider administrative area, Chengdu is one of the most significant economic, financial, commercial, cultural centres in southwestern China, with outstanding international links.

Chengdu is famous for its extensive transportation system. With two international airports conveniently connecting to over 100 domestic and international airports, Chengdu is accessible from and to almost all the major countries in the world. There are direct flights to popular Asian country destinations like Seoul, Tokyo and major western cities including New York, San Francisco, London and Amsterdam. As the largest railway hub in southwest China, Chengdu has convenient railway transportation where you can travel to other big cities in eastern, western and northern part of China such as Xi'an, Beijing and Shanghai within few hours via high-speed trains.

Chengdu has a long tradition in education and innovation. The Prefecture Chief of Shu, Wen Weng established a school in Shishi over 2,150 years ago, which is the first school managed by a local government in Chinese history. The city has also been home to eminent literary giants and poets in Chinese history. For example, Li Bai and Du Fu are China's two favourite poets since the Tang dynasty in the 8th Century. And the birthplace of famous Chinese author and political activist, Bai Jin. He is considered to be one of the most important and widely read Chinese writers of the 20th century. Until now, education plays a key role in Chengdu's city development plan as an international metropolis. There are over 2500 education institutions in Chengdu including kindergarten, primary school, middle school, high school, colleges, universities and training centres. Chengdu has developed the strategy of education internationalization while guaranteeing educational equity and quality. In the

future, the city aims to develop internationalization in school management, teaching resources, teacher and student exchanges and visits, educational cooperation and education assessment.

There are many easy-going activities in Chengdu including over 6000 tea houses and plentiful parks where activities such as tai chi and square dances take place. For history and culture enthusiasts, you can be immersed in the local museums and experience cultural events such as papermaking, Sichuan cuisine cooking classes. Whether you're a hedonist, a BINGO player, The Voice wannabe, Chengdu caters to every need in the social scene department. Chengdu is also blessed with easy access to heavenly landscapes, hot springs, waterfalls, glaciers, Giant Buddha's mountains for those sticks stealing hikers, outdoorsy people and wanderlust lovers.

Welcome to Chengdu and hope you will enjoy living here.

Chengdu Westminster School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service, or other similar national equivalent.
