

APPOINTMENT OF DRAMA TEACHER (maternity cover)

WANTED: Excitement, Energy and High Expectations!

We are looking for a candidate to make a significant contribution to the life of Stratford upon Avon School and the wider community. We would like an outstanding practitioner to teach Drama in an innovative, exciting and dynamic Performing Arts Faculty. For a town synonymous with the performing arts and Shakespeare, this is a wonderful opportunity.

Staffing

Drama is part of the Performing Arts faculty. Drama currently has one full time drama teacher, part time drama teacher (SLT) and a curriculum leader (who is a drama specialist). In addition, drama has sometimes had other members of staff who teach within the curriculum area. The appointed candidate will work closely with the rest of the Performing Arts team which, in addition to the above comprises of one full time, one part time dance teacher and one full time music teacher. The Performing Arts team is a positive, enthusiastic and forward looking one.

Curriculum

The school has seized the initiative in developing the curriculum.

“They benefit from a carefully planned and organised curriculum. Leaders’ careful checks on what is happening mean that they know where learning is really strong and where there is still some work to be done.” (Ofsted 2020)

Subjects are expected to have common schemes of work and are in the process of developing common evidence-based strategies to reinforce learning and the retention of knowledge. Students *“are taught the things they need to know, in the right order, so they can remember this new knowledge and build on their learning. But this is not yet consistent enough.” (Ofsted 2020).*

You will be expected to have, or be developing, a strong grasp of curriculum related issues in order to help shape our future direction.

Currently, at Key Stage 3, students receive five 60-minute lessons of Performing Arts per fortnight. These are divided up across the three subjects and ensure all students have the opportunity to experience a broad and balanced Performing Arts curriculum. Groups are generally taught in mixed ability and mixed sex classes.

At key stage 4, the following courses are currently taught:

Edexcel BTEC Dance

Edexcel GCSE Drama

Edexcel BTEC Music

During year 9, students are given a foundation in their six chosen option subjects, before taking four of these into years 10 and 11.

At key stage 5, our offer is reviewed on a year-by-year basis. Currently for September 2022 we are offering:

Edexcel A Level Drama and Theatre

Edexcel BTEC Dance

We are keen to grow our Performing Arts offer at KS5 and hope to offer music in the future.

Facilities

The department currently has the use, two drama studios, two music classrooms, a suite of music practise rooms and a dance studio. Retractable tiered seating in the hall enhances our facilities for performance. There are also impressive professional facilities in the town which our students sometimes have the opportunity to use.

There are developments for the near future, as we are in the process of developing and expanding our site, inclusive of a new Performing Arts building, due to our increasing popularity and increased admissions applications.

Cultural Capital and Extra Curricular Activities

The department has a strong tradition of providing numerous extra-curricular opportunities and cultural capital experiences for our students. A number of after school activities are on offer as well as regular theatre performances. We are keen to increase our work with external companies, providing workshops from professionals, universities and practitioners that not only provide exciting and engaging experiences for pupils but directly link to topics and components of our exam courses. We are also keen to continue providing regular trips for pupils to concerts, dance pieces and theatrical experiences. For example booked into the performing arts calendar so far we have High School Musical Jnr. For our Yr. 7-13 students, 'Machinal' staged by our A-Level Drama students, 'Scarefest' Dance performance at Alton Towers, a theatre trip to see 'A Chorus Line' as well as Music, Dance and Acting workshops.

CPD

Staff attend regular CPD within the department. Staff also receive fortnightly subject meetings with the curriculum leader, which provide opportunities for specific subject related development and growth. Performing Arts staff have also been encouraged and supported to attend external CPD that will develop their knowledge and understanding of outstanding curriculum delivery and encourage them to grow as a professional.

We hope that the successful candidate will fit into our philosophy of "*Engage, Enthuse and Inspire*" and will be able to help deliver both outstanding curriculum and life changing cultural capital experiences to our pupils.

I hope you feel enthused about the opportunities that this appointment offers.

We will look forward to receiving your application in due course.

Lee Fleming

Curriculum Leader for Performing Arts

January 2025