

March 2022

Dear Colleague,

Teacher of Drama with English – Start date 1st September 2023

Thank you for your interest in this post which is key to the future development of the school.

Drama is a vibrant part of the school's work. We have big numbers at GCSE and A-level and the annual school production, which involves over 150 pupils, is one of the highlights of the school year. We are looking for a colleague who wants to be part of an active and successful drama department. The ability to teach English, particularly at Key Stage 3, would be an advantage.

Drama and English are both housed in excellent facilities. The drama department has two studios and access to the hall which doubles as our main auditorium with seating for 400. English have a suite of 9 classrooms including IT facilities.

Balcarras is an excellent place to teach. We have friendly staff, pupils who are keen to learn and supportive parents. We work in attractive buildings, superbly-equipped, on a beautiful site. We are both a teaching school and a maths hub, so professional development is one of our major strengths. The post is open to both experienced and newly-qualified teachers and you will be assured of an excellent induction programme if appointed.

I hope that having read all of the details and perused our applicant pack, you will be keen to apply. Please submit your application by **Monday 17th April 2023**. Interviews will take place shortly afterwards.

I look forward very much to hearing from you.



Headteacher

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Our Drama Department prides itself on enabling pupils of all abilities to succeed. There are currently two full-time and one part-time drama specialists in the department. Drama is taught twice a fortnight in Year 7 and once a cycle in Years 8 and 9. All drama classes are mixed ability. At KS4 there are five lessons a fortnight. The subject is hugely popular and presently there are three option groups in Year 10 and two in year 11 with between 15 - 25 pupils in each of the five classes. A-level Drama and Theatre is taught over nine lessons a fortnight with currently 17 students in Year 13 and 30 in Year 12. We follow the Edexcel syllabus for both GCSE and A-level.

In recent years, GCSE and A-level examination results have consistently exceeded national averages. Our last results were again excellent, with the majority of GCSE outcomes being 7-9; 100% of students achieving a pass at AS and A-level [most in the higher grades of A and B]. Practical marks have been exceptionally good and students have excelled across ability ranges.

Drama is mainly taught in our two purpose designed drama studios, with lessons also occasionally delivered in the school hall. Our equipment is regularly upgraded too – a recent refurb included £15,000 plus of new sound and LED lighting kit. We also have a flexi-time apprentice technician who help to maintain and operate equipment and lead student tech teams.

The main school production is an annual event. Pupils gain so much from taking part, with many leavers describing their participation in shows as being a highlight of their experience here. Past productions have included: *The Sound of Music*, *The 39 Steps*, *Grease*, *Beauty & the Beast*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *We Will Rock You* and most recently *Singin' In The Rain*. When the covid 19 health crisis prevented a show, we made a movie instead! We also have a repertory of exam presentations including Year 11 GCSE scripted and devised plays and AS and A-level productions. We sometimes run a Film School in Activities Week.

The Drama Department encourages students to build a genuine interest in theatre with, when possible, a range of highly popular trips. Our schedule also includes occasional visits into school by touring companies. We have benefited from strong links with the Cheltenham Everyman Theatre and the RSC.

Relationships between department staff and pupils are excellent and the subject is well respected. We are looking for a well-qualified, energetic specialist who will extend and consolidate our drama practice at all levels. Someone prepared to set and maintain high standards in all areas of their work, within and beyond the basic curriculum, taking a significant role in the development of our school play.

We continue to invest heavily in drama and there is a genuine desire from the very top to keep the 'buzz' going. If you love this subject, and if you enjoy the challenges and opportunities of working creatively with young people in exciting environments, this is the chance for you!

If you would like to speak to us for more information, please email hlw@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Hannah Wranosky
Heads of Drama

March 2023