



# SOUTH WILTS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## Drama at South Wilts Grammar School

This position has arisen due to the increasing popularity of the subject at KS4, and additional teaching time planned to be added from September 2023 in KS3. We are looking for an enthusiastic teacher of Drama to teach at KS3 and KS4. The ability to teach A Level Theatre Studies, is desirable but not essential. The post is suitable for either an ECT or more experienced teacher.

The department currently consists of one teacher of Drama supported by English colleagues at KS3. We are moving to a two-week timetable next year and a 5 period (one hour lesson) day. At Key Stage 3 students across Years 7-9 will have 2 one-hour periods of teaching over the two weeks. For GCSE this increases to 5 periods, and at A Level to 9 periods.

The Drama department is well resourced with two dedicated teaching spaces - comprising of a black-box studio, workshop space and a more formal lecture theatre with raked seating for 60 in which exam performances are held. There is also a main hall with a stage and a reasonable lighting rig where whole school productions take place. The department has its own office, adjacent to the Drama Studio, with a well-stocked library of plays and a props, set and costume store under the stage in the Main Hall.

At KS3 students explore a mix of devising, scripted and history of theatre units – from Commedia dell'arte in Year 7 to *DNA* by Dennis Kelly in Year 9. Detailed schemes of work and lesson plans are available for each unit and year group. The students really look forward to these lessons and you will find the Year 7s, in particular, arrive out of breath from running in their eagerness to get there!

At KS4 we follow the OCR specification and begin the course with a more thorough introduction to the world of theatre – exploring lighting, set, sound and costume in more depth – and conduct workshop style practical lessons to equip them with skills not covered at KS3, such as Frantic Assembly's physical theatre techniques. This learning is then applied to our examined set text, *Missing Dan Nolan* by Mark Wheeller, preparations for the Live Theatre exam and their own practical projects. We complete a mock of both the scripted and devised exam in Year 10, before conducting the real exams in Year 11. Across the course we aim to take students on four contrasting theatre trips, two per year, to not only prepare them for their exam, but also to foster a critical appreciation of live theatre that can inform their own practical creativity.

At KS5 we follow the AQA specification and currently cover *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, by Dario Fo, in Year 12 and *Our Country's Good*, by Timberlake Wertenbaker, in Year 13. Across the course, students have the opportunity to explore a variety of practitioners – beginning with the more traditional and progressing to cover more physical, stylised and expressionistic forms, and are supported in being assessed in all of the practical skill sets: lighting, costume, set, sound and directing. Though classes are a little smaller at A-level, the students opting for this subject are passionate, dedicated and every year we have students continuing their studies in this field with our amazing alumni attaining places at prestigious institutions such as Bird College, Bristol Old Vic, Urdang and The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Extra-curricular within the department is vast, with two popular lunchtime Drama Clubs (one for Years 7-8 and 'The SWGS Theatre Company' for Years 9-11), bi-annual whole school productions and plenty of trips to theatre productions, the National Theatre Archives and Creative Careers Workshops. Furthermore, from September, the department will also be running Gold Arts Award as an additional subject for Year 12. It is a busy and thriving department and there is never a dull moment!

## **English at South Wilts Grammar School**

The department currently consists of ten colleagues, a mixture of full- and part-time teachers. As well as the overall Head of the English department, there are subject leaders for A-Level Language, and a Head of Drama. A key strength of the team is the range of experiences, backgrounds and approaches we bring to teaching, planning and discussion. All members contribute to curriculum and resource development and there is an atmosphere of purposeful and warm collaboration. Teachers benefit from generous funding levels for INSET opportunities. All of us enjoy the amount of administrative support we receive, allowing us to focus on teaching and learning. There is a sincere commitment to a work/life balance which makes teaching a pleasure, notwithstanding the inevitable burden of marking in English!

Our students experience English as a series of units of work, each of which aims to cover key aspects of the National Curriculum guidelines for study in Key Stages 3 and 4, and specification requirements at A-Level. At GCSE, the department offers AQA English Language and English Literature. At A level, Edexcel/Pearson English Literature (four groups) and AQA English Language (two) are presently offered. For examination performance please refer to our website [www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk) / exam information/ examination results.

English is taught in dedicated rooms, which all have data projection facilities, and interactive whiteboards, and there is easy access to excellent ICT and library/research facilities that are much used by pupils as planned parts of their English programme. Drama lessons have the benefit of a drama studio and a well-equipped theatre.

We are well resourced in terms of books and have a full collection of support materials. Sharing of ideas and resources is embedded in our way of working. The English team has its own workroom with ample space for marking and meetings.

Our students are all very able and well-motivated. Although already successful and active, the department looks for colleagues willing to contribute to the extra-curricular life of the students. We are members of the English-Speaking Union, and students participate in the union's public speaking and debating competitions. Theatre trips, writing clubs, lunchtime help sessions, morning mentoring, and revision sessions are also part of our departmental life.

- KS3 English will have 7 one-hour periods over two weeks
- KS4 English will have 7 one-hour periods over two weeks
- KS5 A levels will have 9 one-hour teaching periods over two weeks. All A level sets have shared teaching.

### **Staff wellbeing and development**

The school's most important resource is its staff, both teaching and support staff, and we believe that the measure of a school's success must be that all staff feel respected and cared for. The Senior Leadership Team and leaders at all levels are approachable and care about the welfare and wellbeing of all staff. We also try to ensure that staff have a good work life balance adhering to the advice provided in the workforce reform, such as rare cover. There are good CPD opportunities for all staff and excellent support for ECTs.

We maintain good avenues of communication, keeping staff informed with a weekly briefing and bulletin, and we provide opportunities to contribute to policy making, listening to and using good ideas. Staff voice is strong, led by our staff governors who feed back to the SLT and Governing Body. We maintain strong relations with the major teaching unions, with all teaching bodies representative on the staff body.

South Wilts is a happy and supportive environment where students and staff care. The school's motto is "Learning for today, preparing for tomorrow".

Other staff benefits include:

- Able, motivated and well-behaved students
- Teachers Pension Scheme (for teaching staff)

- Local Government Pension Scheme (for non-teaching staff)
- A comprehensive and independent Employee Assistance Programme with a 24/7 helpline for access to counselling and advice
- Free on-site parking
- Cycle to work scheme
- Discounted membership at 5 Rivers Gym & Swimming Pool and all other Wiltshire Council leisure facilities
- On-site canteen and sixth form cafe
- Free cakes in the staffroom on Fridays!

