



Merchant Taylors'
School

Ambition | Character | Excellence

Merchant Taylors' School
Liverpool

Appointment of

**HEAD OF DRAMA – Fixed Term Maternity Cover from
September 2025 to August 2026**

From September 2025

Candidate Brief

Merchant Taylors' School

Liverpool Road

Crosby

Liverpool

L23 0QP

www.merchanttaylorsschool.com

About Merchant Taylors' School

In 2020 our historic independent school in Crosby, Liverpool celebrated its 400th anniversary. We are widely recognised as one of the finest schools in the North West of England with a rich heritage of educating girls and boys aged 4 to 18.

We occupy three sites in Crosby and each School is within close walking distance;

Stanfield Preparatory School - Coeducational Reception to Year 6

Merchant Taylors' Boys' School – Single Sex Years 7 – 13 (some joint teaching in the Sixth Form)

Merchant Taylors' Girls' School – Single Sex Years 7 – 13 (some joint teaching in the Sixth Form)

Alongside a rigorous academic curriculum, we offer an abundance of other opportunities, including a vibrant range of clubs and sporting activities designed to inspire and develop the talents of each pupil. Whether it's on the stage, in the concert hall, on the sports field or working in the community, our pupils will have the chance to grow in areas outside the classroom.

Our inspiring teachers seek to nurture a spirit of inquiry and curiosity in all our pupils, helping them to develop to their fullest potential. We also have a committed and highly professional team of support staff who are an integral part of the School which help to create a caring and supportive learning environment. Learn more about us and why we are proud to be investing in potential by viewing our 5-year strategy 2022- 2027:

<https://www.merchanttaylors.com/strategy/>

A Single Co-education School From September 2025

From September 2025 Merchant Taylors' Girls' will join Merchant Taylors' Boys' to create a single, co-educational senior school. The newly created school will be co-educational for all pupils aged 4-18, creating one school, one community, with one vision.

This strategic development allows us to broaden and strengthen our academic provision, while developing new opportunities and ensuring that access to those opportunities is the same for every pupil at Merchant Taylors'. The single, co-educational school will be based at the current Boys' School, which will be known as the Harrison Site.

Re-modelling our structure to become co-educational will provide greater operational and financial efficiency and will allow the School to help ensure that every pound generated in fee income from parents is invested to support the pupil experience. Uniting the Senior Schools on one site will mean that we can invest in one estate, refurbishing and developing it to meet, and indeed exceed, the requirements of all our community.

Merchant Taylors' School has a remarkable history, with every right to be proud of its achievements over the last 400 years. However, there is no room for complacency. The world is changing fast and we need to move with it whilst staying true to our founding purpose 'for the teaching, educating, and instructing of youth'. The core of our strategy is the creation of a more outward-looking school which reflects modern society, generous in its commitments to partnerships and service to others, inclusive and diverse in its outlook,

forward thinking and digitally acute, operating with the advice of, and in partnership with those at the cutting edge of change and with the schools around us. Society continues to evolve and it is our firm intention that the School adapts accordingly with agility and integrity.

In undertaking this change, the Governors are determined to retain all that is good from both the Girls' and Boys' Schools. This will ensure that both the new co-educational Senior School, and indeed Merchant Taylors' as a whole, becomes the best future-facing version of itself, understanding and serving the needs of its community as it has done for the last 400 years.

The Role

We welcome applications from exceptional teachers able to teach Drama throughout the ability range at Key Stage 2 to A Level, with a proven track-record of outstanding classroom practice. The role is full time and offered on a permanent basis.

The Drama Department is strong and lively and located at the heart of the school. All pupils study Drama from Year 7, with the subject becoming an option choice from GCSE upwards. For curricular Drama, we follow the AQA syllabus for both GCSE and A level. Girls and boys are taught together from Year 10 upwards to provide flexibility in the delivery of the GCSE and A Level courses. To read more about the curriculum, please see:

<https://www.merchanttaylor.com/senior-boys/departments-curriculum/drama/>

<https://www.merchanttaylor.com/senior-girls/departments-curriculum/drama/>

We take full advantage of the excellent theatre opportunities in the North-West, London and at the Edinburgh Fringe. The successful applicant should expect to accompany students to these events as appropriate. The Drama Department also has a strong extra-curricular record with a myriad of clubs on offer and major junior and senior joint-school productions are staged each year, alternating between straight plays and musicals. Recent productions have included Hairspray, One Man Two Guvnors and Little Shop of Horrors; Year 9 have showcased a play as part of the National Theatre Connections project. This year, a Shakespeare Shorts Project, involving students throughout the school, is being performed at the Shakespeare North Playhouse. Helping to direct these extra-curricular performances each year and contributing to the extensive range of Drama clubs, will be a key element of the post. Each year, the Sixth Form support the Drama Department to run a Drama Festival. Many of the students also participate and are hugely successful in the LAMDA programme delivered by a peripatetic LAMDA teacher, and the Drama department works in collaboration with them to co-ordinate and oversee this very popular part of school life. The Drama department contribute to the School's co-curricular activities programme by leading sessions, for example, on content creation and scriptwriting.

Specific Responsibilities

The specific responsibilities of the Head of Drama include the following: (The list is not exhaustive and may change over time as new initiatives evolve.)

- To lead the strategic direction and development of the Drama department
- Leading and managing the Drama department team and other colleagues as necessary

- Assess homework and classwork, set and mark tests and provide appropriate feedback;
- Maintain records and writing termly reports;
- Attend Parents' Evenings and where appropriate hold meetings with parents to discuss student progress;
- Contribute to schemes of work and work to the guidelines provided, planning lessons carefully and regularly setting and marking written work;
- Work positively and co-operatively as a member of a team to include liaising and working with colleagues in operating mark schemes, researching materials, keeping abreast of new developments and developing new courses;
- Act in accordance with advice from the SENCO, the Medical team and Pastoral staff on the best approach to individual students;
- Share in pastoral responsibility for all pupils in school and especially for those in their tutor or teaching groups, liaising where appropriate with pastoral staff;
- Maintain good order and discipline among pupils, safeguarding their health and safety at all times when they are the responsibility of the school;
- Share in cover, supervisory and general duties;
- Attend Assemblies and as often as is reasonable other school functions, playing an active part in wider aspects of school life including extra-curricular activities;
- Manage the LAMDA teaching and co-ordinate assessments.

All Heads of Departments are required to:

- attend the induction programme;
- participate in the system of appraisal;
- identify their own training needs in consultation with their Head of Department;
- ensure they are familiar with the Staff Handbook and school guidance policies;
- be aware of, and act in accordance with, school Health and Safety policies
- In addition to the above, the post holder will carry out any other professional duties as reasonably required by the Head.

Terms and Conditions

The successful candidate will be rewarded on the Merchant Taylors' teachers pay scale with a salary commensurate with their experience and skills. In addition to this they will receive a management allowance to reward them for their responsibilities as Head of Department. The position is full time, permanent and subject to a probationary period of three academic terms.

Benefits

You can enjoy the following rewards in connection with your role:

- Working with fantastic pupils
- Working as part of a committed team
- Extended holiday periods
- Substantial discount on School fees for your children attending the School
- Free membership to the fully equipped on-site gym open from 7am – 9pm
- Support for your continuous professional development
- Employee assistance programme providing a 24-hour counselling and advice line.

Head of Drama

Person Specification

Qualifications and Experience:

Excellent academic education to degree level

Postgraduate Certificate in Education

The ability to keep abreast of developments in their specific subject areas

Skills and Knowledge:

A commitment to developing innovative and stimulating pedagogy

An ability to maintain a high level of ICT skills for T&L and academic admin

An ability to present information clearly, adapting style to suit individual situation and needs

Flexibility in order to accommodate changes in work priorities

Good literacy skills

Excellent time management and organisational skills

An ability to inspire confidence in the girls so that they may ask questions and articulate their own understanding

Have a working knowledge of the GCSE Drama and English courses

Able to deliver the A Level Drama course

Personal Qualities:

Ability to establish positive relationships with teaching and nonteaching staff and pupils

Ability to think creatively and demonstrate initiative, dealing calmly with different situations as they arise

Understand and respect the principles of confidentiality

High professional standards and expectations of pupils and yourself

Ability to contribute innovative ideas

Have a strong passion for the subject and its energetic and accessible delivery in the classroom, whilst enjoy enhancing the delivery of Drama in the school outside of the classroom

Loyalty and integrity

Willingness to take on challenges

The ability to assimilate different types of information, come to logical conclusions, identify options and make sound judgements; persistence in looking for new and improved ways of doing things.

Closing date: Midday on Tuesday 13th May 2025 however, we reserve the right to close the vacancy early so you are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

The interview date is currently scheduled for w/c 19th May 2025