



## **CRANLEIGH SCHOOL DIRECTOR OF DRAMA**

Cranleigh seeks to appoint, for September 2024, a well-qualified and inspirational teacher to lead the Drama Department. This post provides an excellent opportunity for an experienced and innovative teacher with a proven track-record in public examinations at A Level and in directing high quality school productions.

The role will involve leading the teaching and learning of Drama across the School as well as leading all aspects of the co-curricular drama provision. In addition to this leadership position, the successful candidate will also be expected to play a full role in the life of a busy and successful boarding school.

Cranleigh is a leading fully co-educational independent boarding and day Senior School consisting of around 700 girls and boys of 13 – 18 years of age. There is also a Preparatory School in close proximity. Cranleigh aspires to be a beacon of excellence in learning and teaching and is committed to the continuing professional development of all employees.

In line with its motto, Ex Cultu Robur, from Culture Comes Strength, Cranleigh has a rich heritage in the performing and creative arts. From former staff members, Sir Stephen Redgrave and Vivian Cox to Old Cranleighans such as Eric Fellner and Julia Ormond to more recent students achieving places at prestigious drama and musical theatre schools and university drama courses, Cranleigh drama plays an important role in School life. It seeks to be challenging, inclusive, innovative and collaborative.

### **THE DEPARTMENT**

The Department is accommodated in a newly refurbished facility including superb rehearsal studios, two independent teaching classrooms, a flexible multi use large capacity performance space, a smaller scale thrust theatre, green room and dressing rooms. A purpose-built dance studio, located by the Sports Centre, was opened in April 2024.

The Department prides itself on the fact that it produces performances of a professional standard that both entertain and challenge its considerable audiences. There are currently three teachers in the Department, as well as a full-time Theatre/Production Manager and their Assistant. The team is a friendly and open one, committed to providing all pupils with the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Weekly Department meetings give the opportunity for colleagues to share good practice and discuss both curricular and school-wide issues.

## **THE CURRICULUM**

The department teaches the EDUQAS Specification at both GCSE and A Level.

At A Level the department teaches approximately 20 students across the two year groups, all of whom regularly attend high quality live theatre (usually in London) between 6 and 8 times in an academic year.

At GCSE the department teaches around 70 students across year 10 and 11. In the last 3 years the department has attained outstanding results: averaging 67% A\*-A at A Level and 81% grade 9-7 at GCSE.

The post will involve teaching a wide range of abilities and ages and we consider it vital that the successful candidate enjoys the challenge of teaching such a broad range of pupils – giving confidence and enjoyment to those who struggle, whilst stretching and inspiring the most able. There are always opportunities to push pupils beyond the syllabus, and we would welcome fresh ideas from the successful applicant. Each pupil and teacher has an iPad and the successful applicant should demonstrate a willingness to commit to utilising technology in his/her teaching.

## **CO-CURRICULAR DRAMA**

Co-curricular Drama thrives at Cranleigh and has developed an outstanding reputation. The department offers a wide range of opportunities for all pupils to be involved in productions and for nurturing the talents of high-performing pupils. There is a proven pathway for the most talented and passionate pupils to study drama beyond Cranleigh and aspire to professional careers in the industry.

Three Main School shows of high quality are performed each year in the main venues. There is also a regular programme of House Plays where students often take the lead as directors. The Department offers drama clubs as part of the school activity programme and a popular and growing LAMDA programme. It is expected that the successful applicant will lead the schedule of productions upholding Cranleigh Drama's commitment to varied and sometimes experimental work. The Drama department collaborates closely with the Music Department in the production of large-scale musicals, performed by both senior and junior age groups, including at Cranleigh Prep School. Recent productions include "That Face" and "Shakespeare in Love" plus the musicals "West Side Story" and "Little Shop of Horrors" and drama which pushes the boundaries and stretches the students, such as an immersive theatre piece "Neverland". The most recent Junior (lower school) shows were "Once upon a Myth" and the musical "Moana".

The school upholds high standards of theatre production and there is a large and skilled technical and stage management team, led by the Theatre Manager.

## **THE POST**

The Director of Drama is responsible to the Head, the Deputy Head Academic and the Assistant Head (Co-curricular) and is expected to operate effectively in four broad areas:

- Academic leadership;
- Co-curricular leadership;
- Administration; and
- Team management

Specific responsibilities include:

### **Academic Leadership**

- teaching to the highest standard across all year groups, aiming to be the foremost exponent of the teaching of the subject within the department;
- overseeing the continuing development of the schemes of work across the age-range;
- keeping abreast of changes to the curriculum and, in conjunction with the Deputy Head Academic, choosing specifications for the department;
- contributing to the preparation of students for higher education (including Oxbridge);
- leading the development of teaching and learning in the department;

### **Co-curricular Leadership**

- leading all aspects of the co-curricular drama provision and shaping the direction of co-curricular drama at the School;
- organising a rich and varied programme of co-curricular drama performances and activities;
- planning and scheduling all drama shows and activities with consideration of other school events and in liaison with the Assistant Head (co-curricular);
- forming close collaborative links with other departments involved in promoting cultural enrichment and experiences for pupils;
- collaborating with the Director of Music in the staging of musical productions;
- actively promoting drama and performance in a way to engage the wider pupil body;
- organising an exciting and varied programme of theatre trips and booking visiting theatre companies, workshops and masterclasses as appropriate;
- leading and organising the LAMDA provision at the school;
- contributing to the positive promotion and marketing of the School. Liaise with the Head of External Relations and the Director of Admissions to offer events aimed at admissions, recruitment and building links with Cranleigh Prep School and other feeder schools;
- forming links with external performing arts providers to further opportunities and awareness for Cranleigh pupils

### **Administration**

- leading a weekly Drama Department meeting;

- providing written reports, report grades and summative assessment marks and departmental reviews by the deadlines set;
- managing the academic department budget and show budgets;
- compiling the annual review documents and the departmental development plan;
- organising staffing, rooming, timetabling and setting for the department;
- overseeing the production of risk assessments for all practical work that takes place within the department;

### **Team Management**

- motivating the members of the drama team and ensuring they have clear expectations of their roles, establish positive working relationships and foster a purposeful atmosphere of collaboration where all members of the department work together to support each other;
- ensuring that communication within the department is effective and includes everyone in the department, for example via regular department or production meetings;
- ensuring the continued professional development of all members of the department and empowering members of the department to develop their own leadership potential;
- line managing the Theatre Manager;
- mentoring (or managing the mentoring of) PGCE and ECT student teachers in their development;
- undertaking work scrutinies and lesson observation.

### **THE PERSON**

Leading an academic department and a high-profile co-curricular area in such a busy school requires very high levels of organisation, enthusiasm, energy and commitment. We aim to recruit an enthusiastic leader, willing to build on existing strengths of this department, with a willingness to review and refresh the overall department strategy, teaching resources and staff development.

The successful candidate will set an outstanding example through his or her teaching, and contribute to strategic planning at Heads of Departments' meetings.

The successful candidate will provide the creative vision for the overall co-curricular drama programme, and offer inspirational artistic direction of main school productions. In addition, he/she will be expected to get involved in all aspects of this busy boarding school (which would normally include one evening duty per week), including acting as a tutor to a group of students within a Boarding House.

Please read 'Why teach at Cranleigh?' to be found on our website which gives an impression of the ethos to which it is expected that the successful candidate will contribute.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the post informally, please contact Charlie Boddington (Assistant Head Co-curricular) by email in the first instance: [chdb@cranleigh.org](mailto:chdb@cranleigh.org).

For further details and to apply, please visit our website:

<https://www.cranleigh.org/about-us/join-our-team/>

Candidates are requested to submit a brief letter of application, together with a completed application form (apply on the website) supported by a full CV as soon as possible and no later than 9:00 am on Tuesday 7th May 2024. **Applications are considered as they are received and therefore the vacancy may close sooner than advertised.**

Only applications submitted on the School's Application Form will be considered. All applicants must have the right to work in the UK.

**Cranleigh School recognises the positive value of diversity, promotes equality and challenges discrimination. We welcome and encourage job applications from people of all backgrounds.**

**The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The post holder will be subject to a DBS check.**