



Notting Hill & Ealing High School

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Appointment of **Director of Drama**

For January 2019



About the School

“Teaching here is all about being able to have in-depth conversations with students about your subject and helping to enthuse them with the same passion as you have. Teaching at NHEHS is exactly what I imagined teaching would be like when I got my first teaching job; it’s what teaching should be!”

Liberty: joined NHEHS in September 2017 as a Head of Department

Notting Hill & Ealing High School is one of London’s leading independent girls’ day schools. Founded in 1873 it is the oldest of the 25 schools which make up the Girls’ Day School Trust (GDST) having begun life in Notting Hill and moved to Ealing in 1930. We are an all through school (ages 4-18). Around 300 girls in the Junior School and 600 in the Senior School, including 150 in the Sixth Form, make up a friendly and welcoming community. The Junior and Senior Schools occupy their own parts of the site and in day-to-day terms operate independently. We occupy a site in suburban, leafy, west Ealing with excellent transport links. (We are an easy walk or bus ride from Ealing Broadway or West Ealing stations: District and Central underground lines, mainline trains and Crossrail from 2018.) The school is oversubscribed and a very popular choice at all ages with girls joining us from most parts of West London as well as areas further afield.

NHEHS is an academically selective school. Our girls are ambitious, bright, enthusiastic and eager to learn. In our latest ISI inspection we achieved the highest possible grades across the board and the inspectors noted that ‘the quality of the pupils’ achievements and learning is exceptional.’ Public examination results are consistently outstanding and girls go on to study a wide range of subjects at prestigious universities including Oxbridge. (Latest results and the university destinations of Leavers can be found on our web site.) The school is highly regarded for the way it achieves its outstanding outcomes within a particularly warm and supportive environment, and pastoral care and achieving the best for every girl is at the heart of everything we do.

About the GDST

GDST schools share an ethos and heritage of girls-only education and are members of a unique network which adds value to each school, student and member of staff. Networking opportunities with other teachers across the Trust enable staff to share best practice and develop initiatives that benefit all our schools and students. In addition to supporting the work of individual schools in supplying excellent induction and development opportunities for staff, the GDST network provides access to an extensive training programme. This includes development opportunities (including a Middle Leaders Development Programme and Aspiring Leaders Programme) and to grants for individual courses of study.



“We are delighted that you are considering NHEHS and hope that you will want to apply for this post once you have found out more about us. Our website, www.nhehs.gdst.net will tell you more about the school and give you a taste of the atmosphere here.”

Matthew Shoults, Headmaster

Director of Drama

The Post

The post is available from September 2019.

The vacancy provides the opportunity for a well-qualified, inspirational teacher of drama to teach up to A level, and to develop further a flourishing department in both its curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Person Specification

We are looking for a well-qualified candidate with excellent subject knowledge and a passion for the subject. She/he will have excellent organisational and time management skills, the ability to produce creative solutions to challenges and lead a team of dedicated staff. She/he will be a good communicator who can enthuse and inspire both pupils and colleagues and will have exciting ideas about the teaching of drama and the ways in which it can be further developed and encouraged within the school. The ideal candidate will have experience of leading large productions and be fully committed to the vibrant extra-curricular life of the department.

The Department

The Drama Department has a high profile within the School and there is a tremendous amount of support and goodwill towards Drama in the School. The students are bright, dramatically able, and very keen to produce performance work of the highest standard possible. The department is made up of the Director of Drama, one full-time teacher and one drama technician. LAMDA is taught by a peripatetic teacher.

The Drama department is housed in the Main School and has its own black box 100 seater Drama studio with retractable seating which was completed in 2013. The Studio is fitted with a tension wire grid which enables pupils of all ages to access, design, programme and operate either of the two lighting boards a Jester TLXtra or Strand 300. The grid is well stocked with predominantly profiles and Fresnel lamps with four LED parcans. There is an adjoining workshop that is well utilised by students in the design and technical teams for both productions and for curriculum drama.

Drama Curriculum

Drama is taught in Years 7 & 8 and is an option in Year 9. The department aims for students to have an understanding of theatre style and convention. By Year 10, the students are well versed in the theory and practice of a range of practitioners including Brecht, Stanislavski and Berkoff. They are encouraged to embrace all aspects of theatre and designing and directing are key elements of the work in Key Stage 3. However, devising remains at the heart of the work done throughout the school and there is a strong tradition of studio performances that aim to showcase the creativity of our students.

There is a good take up at GCSE and A Level where the Edexcel syllabus is followed. The majority of the students opt to perform for Component 1 and 2; however, there are a number of students who offer design and technical skills including lighting, sound and set. The quality of A Level candidates is invariably high, with some students choosing to pursue the subject at university.

Extra-curricular provision

The quality of extra-curricular drama at NHEHS is exceptionally high with activities on offer that appeal to a wide range of students. The Year 12 subject representatives run a 'drama for pleasure' group whilst the Minerva companies offer performance opportunities throughout the school. Currently Minerva 7 (Year 7) and Minerva J (Year 8 & 9) meet weekly to rehearse and present their work which this year has included *Eva's Story*, an original adaption of *Kindertransport* and *Into the Dark Woods*, a version of Phillip Pullman's Grimm Tales. The Senior Minerva company are taking an original adaptation of *Medea* to the Edinburgh Fringe this summer where they will be performing at the Greenside Nicholson Square.

Back Stage Pass is a technical club that is offered throughout the school. Level 1 being for beginners where they learn to use all the technical equipment and how this combines creatively for an audience. Level 2 where they work on small projects that address the elements of technical theatre and they also have the opportunity to tech Junior and Minerva performances and Level 3 where the focus is on their own designs and the creation of original effects. They also have the opportunity to lead teams in the Senior School Show.

The Senior School show remains one of the highlights in the department's calendar. Always ambitious and demanding in the standards it sets, the show engages pupils in a range of roles, from performance, lighting, stage management, sound, costume, hair and makeup and front of house. The department collaborates with the music department and has in recent years staged *Oh What A Lovely War*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Sweet Charity*. Other recent plays include *Blood Wedding*, *Macbeth* and *The Crucible*.

The department also makes full use of the easy access into London and regularly visits both West End and fringe theatre. It is a vibrant and exciting department in which students can take on multiple roles and perform to the highest level.

Terms and Conditions of the Post

The GDST offers attractive salaries and pay progression, when compared with the education sector generally, and has its own pay and grading structure, and system of career progression. Leadership and teaching excellence are recognised and rewarded in its schools. The salary reflects London weighting.

Benefits include:

- Membership of Teaching Staff Pension Scheme
- Access to the GDST central training and development programme
- Up to 50% discount on fees for children at GDST schools
- Training grants for obtaining further qualifications
- Season Ticket Loans: Interest free loans for travel are available to staff to enable them to buy annual season tickets
- Computer Loans: Interest free loans are available to staff to enable them to buy a computer for personal use at home
- Cycle Scheme: the School is part of the scheme which enables staff to purchase bicycles and equipment at a tax advantageous rate and pay for the equipment over 12 months
- Lunches: free lunches are provided to all staff during term time
- Four weeks' study leave for teachers after ten years' continuous service
- Accredited NQT induction

Application and Interview Process

Applications should be submitted by **midday, on Wednesday 4th July** at the latest; however, applications may be considered in advance of the deadline. Candidates should complete the application form provided and also include a covering letter and full curriculum vitae with details of qualifications and experience and the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of two professional referees, one of whom should be the Head of their present or most recent school.

Completed applications should be sent to:

Mr Matthew Shoults
Headmaster
Notting Hill & Ealing High School
2 Cleveland Road, London W13 8AX

or may be emailed to: recruitment@nhehs.gdst.net

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview on **Monday 9th July**. As part of this process, they will be expected to teach a lesson of up to 35 minutes for which a full prior briefing will be given. All applications will be acknowledged and candidates who have not heard from us further within two weeks of the closing date should assume that the post has been filled.

All adults employed at the school are cleared for working with children and young people through the Disclosure & Barring Service. Please see attached full information regarding the Girls' Day School Trust guidelines on the Safeguarding of Children.

Further information about the school can be found on our website at: www.nhehs.gdst.net

[Application Form](#)