

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

Drama scholarships



Drama scholarships are offered annually at 13+ and 16+. Those joining the school at 11+ may apply as internal candidates for the award at 13+; the deadline for application is 1 February in Year 8.

Criteria

Drama scholarships are open to pupils from any school. The scholarship is awarded for exhibiting strong theatre-making skills, performance skills and most importantly co-curricular involvement; at 13+ candidates would be expected to study Drama during the Middle School years; in the Sixth Form, candidates are not required to study Theatre as part of their IB Diploma.

Holders of the scholarship will become artistic ambassadors, the best example of what a student of Drama can be and participate fully in the co-curricular theatre programme. Scholars have the chance to be involved in several productions, performances and workshop-style clubs throughout their time at Sevenoaks to help foster a deeper love for Theatre and to expand on their technical acting skills. Their involvement may be as a performer, director, technician, or stage manager, and may include duties such as staffing front of house and working backstage.

Holders of a Drama scholarship must demonstrate:

- Leadership
- Reliability
- Commitment
- Teamwork
- A High level of Skill

All scholarships are reviewed annually and their continuance is dependent upon satisfactory conduct, attitude, participation and progress. At such a review, holders of awards are expected to assess their own contribution and to set targets for themselves.

Candidates applying to Sevenoaks School will be asked to express their interest during the application process. The 13+ Drama Scholarship assessment takes place in the May of Year 8. The Sixth Form Scholarship assessment takes place in November of Year 11.

A satisfactory performance in the appropriate entrance examination is a condition of a Drama scholarship.

Assessment

The assessment will take the form of three tasks, which will need preparation in advance: a solo performance, a short presentation and leading part of a creative workshop as part of a group.

For the solo audition, candidates will need to prepare a monologue from a dramatic text, approximately **three** minutes long. Candidates are advised to choose their monologues carefully to ensure they demonstrate a range of acting skills and the ability to convey a character dynamically.

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Assessment (continued)

This piece should be taken from a published work. Other theatrical skills, such as song, dance, mime, improvisation, or evidence of theatre design or technical expertise, may also be integrated into one of these audition pieces.

The monologue will be performed in front of and to the other candidates, as well the assessing Director of Drama and another Teacher of Drama. They will then be asked to integrate feedback and direction into a second performance or 'reworking' of their chosen monologue.

After each reworked monologue, candidates will then be asked to orally answer the following questions:

- *Why* do you have such an interest in Theatre?
- *Why* do you wish to pursue this scholarship award at Sevenoaks School?

Candidates may wish to present a portfolio or scrapbook, documenting their theatrical interests and experiences, at this stage, but this is not compulsory and should only be used to help answer the above questions.

After a short break, the Candidates will take part in a group creative workshop where they will each take it turns to lead ONE devising activity based on the same stimulus sent out to all the candidates a **fortnight in advance**. The task could be based on any approach or technique they have experienced (or researched) for making theatre. The candidate should have a clear idea of what they are interested in the group exploring through this task in terms of the development of potential theatrical material.

All those in the group will be required to participate and lead. Afterwards, the group will work together as an ensemble to synthesise these different ideas into one performance. Here pupils are assessed not only on their creativity but also how they work with others, how they make astute creative choices, and if they can justify their choices.

Following participation at the assessment day, candidates will then be informed if they have been shortlisted for awarding of a Drama Scholarship. Candidates who are not shortlisted will be given feedback and an explanation of the opportunities for co-curricular Drama in Year 9 and the Sevenoaks School Theatre Company.

Assessment format for each group

- Group warm up and welcome
- Presentation of First Monologues and Interviews
- Devising Workshop and Ensemble-Task
- Final Feedback

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Drama at Sevenoaks

Our philosophy is to foster a passion for excellence in drama and to make full use of our outstanding facilities, including our world-class performing arts centre, The Space, to educate our students as broadly as possible.

A strong spirit of ambition and experimentation runs through Drama at Sevenoaks School. In recent years, productions have drawn on a wealth of dramatic knowledge and diversity to bring a programme of vital texts and stylish performances to audiences; whether this be learning trapeze skills for 'The Penelopiad', devised movement and choreography for 'CAESAR', stage combat for 'Rebel Heart' or puppets for 'Animal Farm'. Every two years the department takes a production on tour to schools in Germany during the Michaelmas half term. There is drama for every age group.

We place particular emphasis on the process undertaken to mount a production, and how to maximise student ownership and responsibility, enabling them to get much more out of each project. Senior performers grow into theatre makers rather than merely actors.

Students also take key responsibilities in design and production roles. A reliable source and training ground for such students is the Space Technical Team, mentored by the building's professional technicians, and our in-house Production Coordinator, who constructs props and costumes. Students operate lighting and sound for all projects, and often for visiting professional shows as well.

Alongside the main productions, which are mounted in the Sackville Theatre, several smaller studio projects are hosted in the Ordovsky-Tanaevsky Drama Studio. These student-led pieces have recently explored highlights of American Literature (Oleanna, Zoo Story), and the best of the National Theatre Connections Plays (DNA, Extremism, Three). There are also after-school drama clubs and many students undertake LAMDA or Trinity Guildhall classes to work towards a graded examination.

The Sackville Theatre in The Space is also an emerging venue for small and middle-scale professional theatre, programmed for the school and local community. We have been lucky to host a diverse range of international theatre, often as part of a national or international tour. Recent highlights have included Les Enfants Terribles, Theatre Ad Infinitum, Strangeface, and Play on Words Theatre. The Space is a resource for the school and the wider community, not only in supporting our high-quality drama and music provision with first-class teaching, recording and performance facilities but also as a major venue for the arts in the South East.

Further information and application details

Applications should be made by 1 February of Year 8 for Year 9 entry. For Sixth Form entry, applicants will be asked to indicate their interest on their application forms. The Director of Drama is pleased to meet candidates informally at any stage and to answer any queries.