

DRAMA

SCHOLARSHIPS

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

Drama is housed in our world-class performing arts centre, The Space. Our philosophy is to foster a passion for excellence in Drama and educate our scholars as broadly as possible. They have the chance to be involved in several productions, performances and workshop style clubs to help foster a deeper love for theatre and to expand their technical skills on stage or behind the scenes.

Drama Scholarships

Drama scholarships are offered annually at 13+ (Year 9) or 16+ (Lower Sixth) entry. Those joining the school at 11+ (Year 7) may apply as internal candidates for an award at 13+.

Criteria

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

The scholarship is awarded for exhibiting strong theatre-making skills, performance skills and most importantly co-curricular involvement. 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. 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

At Year 9, 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.

All scholarships are reviewed annually and their continuance is dependent upon satisfactory conduct, attitude, participation and progress.



Assessment for Year 9 (13+) entry

The assessment will consist of two parts: a solo performance and leading part of a creative workshop.

1. Solo performance

For the solo performance, candidates will need to prepare a monologue from a dramatic text, approximately three minutes long. The dramatic text will usually be taken from a published play rather than from a film or television script. Candidates are advised to choose their monologues carefully to ensure that they demonstrate a range of acting skills and the ability to convey a character dynamically.

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 as the Director of Drama and another teacher of Drama. They may be asked to integrate feedback and direction into a second performance or 'reworking' of their chosen monologue.

2. Creative workshop

Candidates will also take part in a group creative workshop involving a stimulus introduced by the teaching team. Full instructions will be provided, no advance preparation is needed.

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

Assessment for Lower Sixth (16+) entry

The process for auditions in the Sixth Form will consist of two stages: a video submission and, if invited, a second audition.

1. Video submission

The initial stage of audition process involves all applicants making a video recording of themselves performing an audition speech of their choice, which should be approximately 3-5 minutes long. Candidates should upload this recording to a portal of their choice, eg Vimeo. For security and safeguarding reasons, we ask you to password protect any video you upload to the platform.

The choice of script and performance must be appropriate for the context of a school and age of the student. The performance must therefore not: glamorise the taking of drugs; incite or condone intolerance or hatred of others; include excessive or gratuitous violence; make reference to, or represent, explicit sexual activity. If you are unsure, please check in advance. A costume is not essential but please make sure your clothing is neutral, comfortable and suitable for the performance skills and/or style being displayed. Props integral to the narrative in the script may be used, or replicated with alternatives, or simply mimed.

Candidates will be notified in early November if they are successful in being shortlisted for the next round of auditions.

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2. Second audition

Candidates invited to the second stage will take part in a 30-minute assessment with the Director of Drama or another member of the Drama department. This assessment may take place in person or online*.

The format of the assessment will be as follows:

- The candidate will perform a short piece, this may be the same piece submitted by video for the preliminary stage of the assessment or a new piece of similar length, if preferred. Students should follow the same guidance on appropriate subject matter as for the preliminary audition.
- An informal discussion about the performance – this may include the candidate's thoughts about the character, how they researched the role etc. The candidate may be asked to repeat their performance after taking notes from the teachers.
- A discussion of how the candidate would direct the piece. We are interested in the role of Drama scholars as theatre-makers as well as performers. This part of the assessment will also be used to learn more about the candidate's wider theatre skills, experience, interests and ambitions.

Further information and application details

For Year 9, all candidates who have accepted a place at the school will be invited to apply for a Drama scholarship. Drama scholarship applications should be submitted by 1 February of Year 8 and the scholarship assessment day will be held in April.

The application form for 13+ can be found here:

<https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/admissions-repository/year-9-co-curricular-application>

For Lower Sixth, candidates should express an interest in a Drama scholarship at the confirmation stage of application. Selected candidates are invited for assessment in November.

The application form for 16+ can be found here:

<https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/admissions-repository/sixth-form-co-curricular-scholarship-application>

Please direct further enquiries to our Admissions department via email to admissions@sevenoaksschool.org. We will pass these on to the Director of Drama, Dr Rick Hartley.

*We understand that not all candidates are able to attend live auditions for Sixth Form entry. Students can choose to complete their second audition here at Sevenoaks School, or via video call with Sevenoak School staff. For video interviews please ensure you are in a well-lit room and there is space for you to re-work your audition speech, which can be caught by your camera. We advise you have a parent or guardian with you to start and close the session.