



16+ Drama Scholarship

What are we looking for in a drama scholar?

A drama scholar will have a passion for theatre and all types of performance. They will be taking GCSE Drama and intend to go on to study drama and theatre at A Level. They will have a strong interest in performance and productions and will be able to show this through their extracurricular interests.

A drama scholar will enjoy both taking part in and watching theatre productions and will have a keen interest in becoming fully involved in the life of the Drama Department, with the opportunity to develop their own performance-based project during their time in Sixth Form. We are looking for candidates with a love of theatre and performance who are ready to develop their skills and experience further.

A scholarship candidate will successfully demonstrate the following key attributes:

- potential as an actor
- ability to respond flexibly to direction
- creativity and initiative in ideas for devising original drama
- ability to work creatively within a team supported by clear examples
- a passion for theatre supported by clear examples

What does a scholar enjoy?

A successful scholarship candidate will enjoy the following opportunities:

- an individual mentor from the Drama Department staff
- the opportunity to direct and/or act in a scholar led performance project – opportunities are based around candidates' own interests
- the opportunity to attend one dedicated scholars' theatre trip per year

Expectations of a scholar

- To choose to study A Level Drama and Theatre
- To be the best possible ambassador for drama within the School by showing consistent commitment and integrity
- To understand that drama is an inclusive rather than exclusive activity at St Helen's and therefore that a drama scholar cannot expect to be cast in a lead role for every production
- To pursue individual goals, for example National Youth Theatre, playwriting competitions, directing, holiday courses, work experience, running drama clubs, going to the theatre or watching online theatre, exploring the work of theatre practitioners and reading plays all with the support of the department
- To present initiatives to the Head of Drama regarding any of the above
- To assist the Drama Department on Open Day, with extra-curricular productions and other events as required through the year

- To have a meeting with a mentor (member of the Drama Department) four times a year (usually first half of Michaelmas term, end of each term) to appraise progress and set new targets
- To communicate frequently with the Drama Department

Selection and assessment procedure

Selection for 16+ drama scholarship for internal and external candidates is by audition and interview. All applicants will complete an application form on which they should list their involvement in productions to date, their experience of drama clubs, societies, competitions and examinations taken, and plays either read or seen in the last two years. The shortlisted candidates will be invited to an audition with the Head of Drama and a drama specialist.

Those wishing to apply for a 16+ drama scholarship should submit an application by the date stated on the application form, which can be found on the 16+ scholarship page of our website at www.shsk.org.uk.

Please note that it is very likely that there will be a selection process based on the application form as it may not be possible to audition every applicant. In order to be fair to external applicants, internal candidates should not assume that their performance at GCSE or in school productions will automatically be taken into account and should list their experience clearly on the form. The shortlist will be based purely on the application form and will be judged by a visiting drama specialist.

Before the audition day:

Candidates will be invited to the audition day by letter.

On the audition day:

On the audition day, candidates will be invited to a workshop, audition and interview.

The session will consist of three parts. Candidates will begin with a group workshop, then individual performances of their pre-prepared monologue, followed by an individual interview with the Head of Drama and a visiting drama specialist. Candidates should dress comfortably in trousers and shoes that enable them to move freely.

Part 1 – Group Workshop

All the scholarship candidates together will be given an improvisation task. They will work together to create, share and develop spontaneous performance ideas, culminating in a short performance. The workshop will last approximately one hour and the devised piece should be approximately 5 minutes in duration. They should aim to utilise some of the techniques they have learnt so far through their study of drama and extra-curricular experience. A discussion and reflection on the group devising process will take place at the end of this activity.

Part 2 – Monologue

Candidates will need to prepare ONE monologue of their choice prior to the audition.

- The monologue should be no longer than two minutes in duration.

- The monologue should be taken from a published play text and should offer the opportunity to demonstrate depth of character as well as a range of voice and movement skills
- Candidates should have read the play from which the monologue is taken and should be prepared to answer questions about their character's journey and key relationships
- Candidates should perform from memory
- Candidates should bring a printed copy of their monologue with them to the audition
- Candidates may use a chair if desired, however, candidates should not be afraid to perform in an open stage space and should ensure that they show a range of movement
- Props and costumes are not required. If candidates need one key prop, that is acceptable, however they will need to provide it themselves
- Having performed, candidates should be prepared to respond to direction given by the panel members. The panel will be looking for flexibility and the ability to change their performance based on the direction given.

Part 3 – Interview

Candidates will be asked to reflect upon any of the following topics:

- Their success in performing the monologue and their response to taking direction
- The ideas and performance they contributed to the devising workshop
- A theatre practitioner whose work they find particularly inspiring and why
- An example of a time they have worked successfully in drama as part of a team
- A recent theatre visit or play they have watched online, including specific examples of why they found this inspiring and effective
- Their personal dramatic goals
- Their ideas for what they would do with a drama scholarship, for example run a club or direct a play
- The relevance of drama in today's world

Please note that for any candidate wishing to specialise in design, the selection process remains the same. If a candidate is particularly interested in design, please state your chosen design element (lighting, sound, costume or direction) on the application form and opportunity will be given within the interview for discussion of this.

The panel will expect all elements of theatre and performance to be discussed using subject-specific terminology.

Details of the Scholarship Programme together with schedules and application forms are available in the 16+ Scholarships section of the school website www.shsk.org.uk.