



ST HELEN &
ST KATHARINE

Drama Scholarship 16+

Duration: 2 years

What are we looking for in a scholar?

We are looking for students with a love of drama and theatre, who are excited by performance in all its forms. A Drama scholar will be ready to deepen their understanding of the subject as they move into Sixth Form. Our Drama scholars are curious, committed and open to challenge – they enjoy exploring ideas, taking creative risks and working collaboratively.

Candidates will be studying GCSE Drama and will intend to continue with A Level Drama and Theatre in Sixth Form. We are looking for students who are eager to make the most of the opportunities offered to them and who are keen to become fully involved in the life of the Drama Department.

A successful scholarship candidate will demonstrate the following key attributes:

- A passion for theatre and all types of performance
- Strong acting skills and potential as a performer
- Ability to respond flexibly to direction
- Creativity and initiative in devising original Drama
- Strong collaboration and teamworking skills
- Interest in developing their own performance-based project during Sixth Form
- Enjoyment in taking part in and watching theatre productions
- Independent engagement with the work of theatre makers and dramatists by attending plays and workshops within and outside School and reading scripts

What does a scholar enjoy?

Drama scholars are highly regarded within the School community. They play an important role in shaping the creative life of the department and inspire younger students who share their interest in theatre and performance. Scholars benefit from close guidance from specialist Drama staff, who support them in preparing for external opportunities such as National Youth Theatre auditions, drama school applications and wider creative projects.

Throughout Sixth Form, you will be encouraged to take ownership of your development as a theatre-maker. This includes access to enriching experiences such as masterclasses with visiting practitioners, opportunities to watch high-quality professional theatre, and individual guidance tailored to your ambitions—whether that is performance, directing, theatre design or academic study at university. You will play an active role in our vibrant Drama department—contributing to productions, developing new work, and helping to foster a strong and supportive creative community.

A successful scholarship candidate will enjoy the following opportunities:

- A specialist mentor from the Drama Department, offering individual guidance and support tailored to your interests and ambitions
- Expert preparation and personalised support for external auditions, including National Youth Theatre and drama school applications
- Workshops and masterclasses with visiting theatre professionals, giving you the chance to develop new approaches and refine your practical performance skills
- Individual guidance on devising, directing or performing in your own creative scholar-led project, exploring ideas that matter to you
- Specialist technical and costume support to realise your creative project in performance
- Advanced practical work on classical texts, developing your confidence with challenging material
- Regular opportunities to experience live theatre, including a dedicated scholars' trip each year
- Support in preparing for external competitions, festivals and other creative opportunities
- Opportunities to take on leadership roles within the department, including supporting rehearsals, mentoring younger students and leading Drama activities
- Frequent opportunities to perform, direct or work behind the scenes as part of a varied and ambitious production programme
- Access to a wide range of specialist Drama resources, including plays, critical texts, journals and digital material to support your practical and academic development
- Access to the network of St Helen's alumnae who have gone on to pursue Drama or related fields, to help you develop and plan for your next steps

Expectations of a Drama Scholar

Drama scholars are ambassadors for the subject and are expected to make a meaningful contribution to the creative life of the School. They play a key role in shaping the culture of the Drama department, sharing their enthusiasm for the subject with younger students and peers. Drama scholars are expected to lead by example, bringing energy, commitment and intellectual curiosity to all aspects of departmental life.

Drama Scholars are expected to:

- Study A Level Drama and Theatre
- Be positive, committed ambassadors for Drama within the School
- Engage with the subject beyond the Drama curriculum
- Pursue their own interests and ambitions in theatre, supported by the department (for example: directing, playwriting, courses or competitions)

- Take initiative in developing ideas and independent projects
- Support the Drama Department at departmental and academic events and Open Days
- Participate in Drama productions across the year, both as a performer and behind the scenes as required
- Meet with their mentor regularly to reflect on progress and set targets
- Work positively with younger students, for example by mentoring, supporting rehearsals, running clubs and contributing to co-curricular activities
- Maintain open and reliable communication with Drama staff

Selection and assessment process

Selection for the 16+ Drama Scholarship for internal and external candidates is by audition and interview. All applicants should 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 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.

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.

- Practical group workshop
- Individual performance of the candidate's pre-prepared monologue, including some re-direction from the panel
- Individual interview with the Head of Drama and a drama specialist.

Candidates should dress comfortably in trousers and shoes that enable them to move freely.

Part 1 – Practical Group Workshop

All the scholarship candidates together will be given a practical improvisation task. They will work together to create, share and develop spontaneous performance ideas, culminating in a short performance of their devised piece (approx. 5 mins). 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 Audition

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 to give to the Head of Drama
- 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 use the space, showing 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 – Individual Interview

Candidates will be asked to reflect upon some 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 play they have watched, including specific examples of why they found this inspiring and effective
- Their personal dramatic goals
- What qualities they would bring as a Drama scholar
- Their ideas for a project they might offer as a Drama scholar to inspire their peers and younger students
- The relevance of Drama and theatre 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 Scholarships section of the School website www.shsk.org.uk.