



Drama Scholarship 13+

Duration: 3 years

What are we looking for in a scholar?

We are looking for students with a love of Drama, who are excited by theatre and performance. A Drama scholar will be keen to develop their practical skills and understanding of the subject through Middle School. Our Drama scholars are curious, committed and open to challenge – they enjoy exploring ideas, taking creative risks and working collaboratively.

Candidates will be required to study Drama in Year 9 and to study GCSE Drama. We are looking for students who are eager to make the most of the opportunities offered to them and who are keen to become involved in the life of the Drama Department.

Successful candidates will demonstrate the following key attributes:

- A love for theatre and all types of performance
- Strong acting skills and potential as a performer
- Ability to respond to direction
- A positive approach to teamworking
- Enjoyment in taking part in and watching theatre productions
- Independent engagement with watching plays within and outside School and reading script

What does a scholar enjoy?

Drama scholars play an important role within the School community, supporting Drama activities and inspiring younger students who share their interest in theatre and performance. Drama scholars benefit from opportunities to work closely with the Sixth Form Drama scholars and receive mentorship and guidance from specialist Drama staff, who support them in developing their skills.

Throughout Middle School, you will be encouraged to take every opportunity to develop your skills as a Dramatist. 13+ scholars follow a skills-based programme, including enriching experiences such as masterclasses with visiting practitioners, opportunities to watch high-quality professional theatre, and specialist guidance focused on helping you develop your practical skills in performance and theatre design. You will play an active role in our vibrant Drama department.

A successful scholarship candidate will enjoy the following opportunities:

- A specialist mentor from the Drama Department, offering guidance and support to develop your performance skills
- Workshops and masterclasses with visiting theatre professionals, giving you the chance to develop your practical skills
- The opportunity to perform in a Drama Scholars' Showcase
- Guidance on working with scripts, developing your confidence with how to approach a range of texts
- Regular opportunities to experience live theatre, including a dedicated scholars' trip each year
- Opportunities to perform and support backstage as part of a varied and ambitious production programme
- Opportunities to work with the 16+ Drama Scholars as part of your academic and practical development
- Support in preparing for external competitions, festivals and other creative opportunities
- Access to a wide range of specialist Drama resources, including plays and digital material to support your practical and academic development

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 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 Drama in Year 9 and at GCSE
- Be positive, committed ambassadors for Drama within the School
- Engage with the subject beyond the Drama curriculum
- Support the Drama Department at events and Open Days
- Participate in Drama productions and activities 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
- Develop their own interests and ambitions in theatre, supported by the department (for example: playwriting, courses or competitions)
- Work positively with younger students, for example by supporting rehearsals and productions 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 13+ Drama scholarship should submit an application by the date stated on the application form, which can be found on the 13+ 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 in lessons 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 re-direction from the panel
- Individual interview with the Head of Drama

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

Part 1 – Practical Group Workshop

All the scholarship candidates will undertake a practical workshop focusing on teamwork and performance skills. This may include sight-reading, improvisation and short performance-based activities. They should aim to utilise some of the techniques they have learnt so far through their study of Drama and extra-curricular experience.

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 90 seconds in duration. (An edited version of a longer monologue is allowed, but care should be taken to ensure that it still makes sense).
- 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 workshop their piece, responding to direction given by the panel. The panel will be looking for flexibility and the ability to develop their performance based on the direction given.

Part 3 – Individual Interview

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

- Why they chose this performance piece
- Their success in performing the monologue and their response to taking direction
- Their experience of the practical workshop undertaken on the day
- A play they have read or watched that they found particularly inspiring and why
- A recent play they have watched, including specific examples of why they found this inspiring and effective
- What they would hope to gain as a Drama scholar
- What qualities they would bring as a Drama scholar
- An idea for promoting Drama to their peers and younger years

Please note that if any candidate has a special interest in design, the selection process remains the same. If a candidate is particularly interested in design, please state the element you are most interested in (lighting, sound, costume or direction) on the application form and opportunity will be given within the interview for discussion of this.

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.