



HIGHSTED GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Highsted Road, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 4PT

Headteacher: Anne Kelly BA MBA

Telephone: 01795 424223

www.highsted.kent.sch.uk

Email: admin@highsted.kent.sch.uk

Teacher of Drama Part-time considered MPS/UPR

Highsted Grammar require an exceptional teacher of Drama to contribute to the development of Drama at this high achieving girls' grammar school. The successful applicant will teach the subject to A-level, and support extracurricular provision.

If you are passionate and enthusiastic about making a difference, if you have a 'can-do' attitude and feel you have the experience and energy to engage and guide our students in their dramatic explorations, you are encouraged to apply to join us on our journey.

The post offers exceptional opportunity in a good school where we can offer you:

- the opportunity to inspire highly able and well-motivated students to fulfil and exceed their potential
- a dynamic and supportive working environment
- opportunities for professional development
- a non-contributory private health care package supported by Benenden Health Care
- a competitive salary commensurate with experience

Please contact Tracy Field at the school via field.t@highsted.kent.sch.uk or visit our website to download further information and an application form: www.highsted.kent.sch.uk

Closing date noon 21st May 2025, 12.00hrs

Early applications are encouraged as eligible candidates will be invited to the interview stage on a rolling basis and we may appoint before the stated closing date.

Highsted Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Highsted Grammar School is an Equal Opportunities Employer.



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Welcome to Highsted

At Highsted, we view education as a creative process. Our vision is to lead a happy and cohesive community which fosters academic, emotional and physical confidence. In doing this we create inspirational learners with the courage to take risks and the wisdom to learn from their mistakes.

Our success is as a consequence of striking a fine balance between tradition and innovation. Our values are traditional ones and we offer an unashamedly academic curriculum. We are keenly aware that we are preparing our students for a working life none of us can yet anticipate. Our focus, therefore, is on developing the skills, attributes and habits of mind that equip our young women as life-long learners. Our aim is to launch them into the world as self-starters, focused but flexible, armed with the courage to grasp opportunities and the resilience and humour to negotiate setbacks along the way.

We hope that at Highsted you will find a society, a family – a place of lifelong learning that will support and encourage each and every member of our community.

Please use the contact details above if you would like the opportunity to tour the school or to meet the Head before making an application. I look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Anne Kelly - Headteacher

Ofsted - Good

'Pupils and students flourish and succeed at Highsted Grammar.'

'Pupils are courteous, polite and welcoming – they are happy, safe and well cared for.'

'Teacher's subject knowledge is exceptionally strong'

'Leaders set high expectations of what students can achieve. Pupils and students respond well to these high expectations.'

'An ambitious 'cognitive and compassion' curriculum offers a fitting balance of academic rigour and pastoral support.'

'Incidents of poor behaviour are low, and attendance is high. Pupils arrive punctually to their lessons, so learning time is maximised.'

Ofsted Inspection report 2023

About Us

Highsted Grammar School is a small girls' grammar school (around 900 on roll, including 182 in Sixth Form) situated in the North Kent town of Sittingbourne. We were one of the first to convert to academy status in the autumn term 2010.

Excellent road and rail connections give easy access to London, Canterbury, Ashford and the Continent. Sailing and swimming facilities in the area are good and there are plenty of community activities (for example, orchestral, choral, theatrical clubs, etc.) available. Theatres in Canterbury and Maidstone, as well as those in London, provide entertainment. A well-equipped sports complex in the town has excellent facilities both for the serious sportsman and woman and for family recreational use. House prices are relatively low for the South East and opportunities for further professional development are excellent.

The school itself is a high-performing girls' school, where pastoral care and enrichment feature as highly as academic success. Having featured three times in Her Majesty's Chief Inspector's list of outstanding schools, we are proud to play a leading role in the education of young people in our area. The pupils are exceptional in every way – they are enthusiastic, personable, caring, and show considerable initiative – and we enjoy the strong support of parents. Likewise, the staff team – teaching, support and administrative – is talented, dedicated, hard-working and committed to the continuing success of the school. The governing body represents a group of capable, multi-skilled individuals, wholly supportive of the work we do.

The main block of the school was opened in 1958 when the school moved from older premises and since then other buildings have been added, including a technology block, new laboratories and additional classrooms. Development of the site continues with an imaginative, multi-purpose teaching area – the Hi-pod; new PE and dance studio, language laboratory and media studies/photography suite.

The Learning Resource Centre was created out of the old school library and boasts a light, comfortable and airy environment with good book stock, excellent ICT facilities and a pleasant reading area. It is very popular with students and well used by all age groups. Books, newspapers and specialist magazines are catalogued alongside other media and loans are monitored through an electronic library management system. Much of the day-to-day running of the Centre is undertaken by a group of library prefects, trained and overseen by the Centre Manager.

Highsted is a school of opportunity for staff as well as pupils, winning the School Achievement Award in two out of the three years that the scheme ran. We contribute extensively to initial teacher training, with many PGCE and SCITT trainees successfully completing their programme in the school each year and in recent years, no less than six members of the leadership team have been promoted to headship posts.

Selective Education

Pupils are granted places at the school on the basis of success in the Kent selection tests or the Highsted Test, broadly speaking they represent the top 25% of the ability range. The economic and social characteristics of the locality are not the most affluent in Kent, so opportunities for value-added are high and the school is able to make a real impact within the community. At Sixth Form level we work in partnership with two other local schools, Borden Grammar (boys) and Fulston Manor (mixed). Through this arrangement, we focus mainly on A-level provision and are able to offer more than 34 different courses, including several applied A-level options. Highsted continues to be placed in the top 100 secondary schools (The Telegraph) based on our A-level results.

Partnership Working

The school, formerly sponsored by Microsoft, received specialist school status through science and consequently we have implemented major changes to the ICT infrastructure to make full use of these connections. Across the school we regard this not only as a strategy to develop science further and promote the role of women in this area, but also as the opportunity to enhance provision across the whole curriculum.

The school has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with Gymnasium Fridericianum, Erlangen in Bavaria and this has led to regular exchange visits for more than 25 years. From our advantageous geographical position, we are also able to undertake day trips to Europe and each year there are study visits to France, Belgium and Italy, organised by different subject areas. For the first time in 2005, a group of Year 12 students spent three weeks in quality work experience placements in Brussels and this has become a regular part of the summer term enrichment programme, supported by substantial grants from the EU.

Extra Curricular

Music and drama within the school are exceptional, with high quality productions taking place regularly. Sporting activity also features highly in the work that we do, and the pupils enjoy both local and national recognition in areas as diverse as cricket, judo and other sports. Other extra-curricular activities are wide-ranging and responsive to student need. A very strong School Council has been an established part of Highsted for more than 50 years.

The Drama Department

If you are passionate and enthusiastic about making a difference, if you have a 'can-do' attitude and feel you have the experience and energy to engage and guide our students in their dramatic explorations, you are encouraged to apply to join us in the vibrant department. We are looking for someone who will inspire our students both in and beyond the curriculum and expand their cultural knowledge and experience.

The post would suit someone who has the expertise to teach a range of abilities, with a clear vision of how to maximise achievement in our students and ensure that learning is an enriching experience for all. Students in KS3 have an hour a week of drama and then choose to study to GCSE (AQA) and on to A level (AQA) with a collection of students opting to go onto to drama schools or to read drama and theatre at university, demonstrating passion for subject and the industry as a whole.

The department has the benefit of a fully purpose drama studio as well as the main hall stage for whole school productions and the annual house drama competitions allowing for a wider audience. The whole school production is a dynamic and popular extracurricular event for the whole school with the most recent productions being Annie, Sister Act, Legally Blonde and High School Musical. Students relish in the opportunity to act, sing, dance as well as direct and manage backstage to create a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere. The annual house drama event allows for students to compete, with a brief, to devise and create their own production with our alumni community invited to judge this exciting event in the school diary.

Throughout the year, the drama department enrich our students experience of drama and theatre through a range of trips planned by the department. Recent trips involved the GCSE trip to see 'A Woman in Black' and for A level students 'To Kill a Mockingbird' at The Gielgud Theatre, London. Students return to the classroom to analyse and evaluate the performance skills of professionals and the productions aims which leads to insightful live production review work. We also further inspire students by arranging production companies to perform and workshop with students; the most recent being Splendid Theatre Company which has proved highly valuable to inspire students in their own creative work.

We welcome applications from well qualified and flexible teachers, with the imagination and flair to accept the challenge of joining the team at this exciting time in the school's evolution.

We are committed to contributing to the continuous improvement of teaching and learning: as individual practitioners, as a team and as members of an exceptional school community. We are looking forward to appointing an outstanding colleague who can contribute to the progress of all of our students with energy, passion and skill.

About You

From this brief description, potential candidates will realise that this grammar school offers far more than a purely academic focus. This does not come about by accident. It is entirely dependent on the determination and commitment of the whole school community, alongside effective delegation of tasks. If you have the potential to contribute to an exceptional school and would like to be part of a friendly, winning team, we would love to hear from you!

This post would suit a creative and ambitious professional who can work well as part of a team, is keen to contribute ideas and take on new initiatives and has high expectations of the students. It provides an opportunity to work with able and well-motivated students within a successful department and with friendly colleagues. Flexibility and a personal desire to broaden professional experience would be an advantage.

Application & Interview Process

Applications will only be accepted from candidates completing the school's application form, which is available to download from the website. All sections of the application form must be completed as accurately and as full as possible. Alternatively, applicants may submit their application via the Kent Teach website. Please note that CV's will not be considered in isolation and must be attached to an application form as a supplementary form.

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 21 May 2025, 12.00hrs

Interview date: TBC

The school may interview early in the case of an exceptional candidate. Candidates will be shortlisted based solely on the information provided within the application form, so ensuring your application form is accurate and fully completed is imperative.

After the shortlisting process as taken place, candidates will then be invited to interview and references then contacted.

All candidates who have been invited for interview will be required to bring the following documentation:

- Right to Work in the UK evidence (typically a birth certificate, passport or driving license)
- Criminal Record Self Declaration (will be sent ahead of the interview)

Higsted Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced criminal record check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) will be undertaken for the successful candidate, including a check of the DBS Children's Barred List. All applicants must be willing to undergo safeguarding screening appropriate to the post, including checks with the DBS and at least two satisfactory references. It is an offence to apply for the role if you are barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children

Person Specification
Teacher: Drama

	Essential	Desirable
Experience	Qualified teacher, graduate in Drama / or related qualification	Ability to offer a second subject to A-level.
	Successful contribution to drama initiatives/developments in school.	Experience of involvement in whole school planning.
	Evidence of taking responsibility for own professional development.	Contribution to professional development of others.
	Evidence of outstanding teaching, leading to consistently high standards of achievement.	Successful experience in raising student achievement and adding value.
	Contribution to a school's extra-curricular programme.	Experience of establishing community links.
	Knowledge of current developments in teaching and learning.	
	Evidence of working with other professionals as part of a team.	Application of good practice to/from other subjects and areas.
Personal Qualities	Enjoy working with young people.	
	Demonstrate energy, vigour and perseverance and promote an 'I can' philosophy.	
	Ability to prioritise, plan and organise own work.	
	Ability to contribute to a team both at department level and whole school.	
	Ability to enthuse and motivate others.	
	Sense of humour.	
	Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.	Acknowledge/utilise the experience, expertise and contribution of others.
	Consistently high expectations of themselves and others.	
	Self-motivated and self-confident.	
	Personal impact and presence with staff, students and parents.	Implementation of creative and innovative teaching developments.
Skills	Broad and imaginative range of teaching skills.	
	High-level communication and presentation skills.	
	Think creatively and imaginatively to solve problems.	Ability to anticipate problems and identify opportunities.
	Ability to negotiate and consult effectively; knowing when to seek advice and support.	
	Ability to use ICT effectively to support teaching and learning.	Ability to develop the ICT skills of others.
	Ability to identify and develop opportunities.	Evidence of entrepreneurial approaches to problems.
	Ability to interpret data and trends.	Make informed use of data to raise achievement.