

**Teacher of Drama**

**Application pack**



**Teacher of Drama**

Thank you for your interest in the post of Teacher of Drama at Walton-le-Dale High School.  I hope that our website [www.waltonledale.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.waltonledale.lancs.sch.uk/) will give you a good overall “flavour” of the school.

Walton-le-Dale is a relatively small school which gives us a distinctive atmosphere. Many visitors comment on the warmth and friendliness of the school.  It is a school where the students and staff know each other well.  Our smaller size allows us to see each child as an individual and to cater for them individually. We are proud to be one of only a few secondary schools in Lancashire with the Inclusion Mark, achieved in 2008 and renewed many times since. We currently have Flagship status for the Inclusion Mark, and this reflects the importance of this to our ethos.

This is, and will continue to be, a student-centred school. Everything we do must have the interests of our students at the heart of it.  The strengths of Walton-le-Dale lie in the relationships within the school. Our challenge is to ensure that we make use of these strong relationships to get the best out of our students in terms of achievement. A great education is more than exam results and I believe our success is also reflected in the way our students turn out after 5 years at Walton-le-Dale. Everyone in the school works hard to make this happen.

Our students come from a wide catchment area. Around a third of the students come from the Blackburn area, whilst the rest are local or from the Preston area. We have a large number of feeder schools. We are truly a comprehensive school, with a mixed ability intake. It is noticeable that we have a significant number of students who join the school late. These are often vulnerable students with a wide range of educational, social, and emotional needs. We believe they are attracted to us because of the quality of care and learning support that we offer.  We place a strong emphasis on trying to deliver a curriculum which is relevant and appropriate to our students.  The school offers Key Stage 4 students a wide variety of options for a relatively small school.   These curriculum developments are matched by a very strong focus on teaching and learning as part of our current school improvement plan.

There is a strong team of staff across the school – all staff, not just teachers. They are incredibly supportive of each other, both in a personal and professional sense. Lesson planning is often shared and cross-department sharing of expertise is also common.  Our team of pastoral and learning support staff is exceptionally strong, with HAL’s responsible for our Houses across the school.  We have a team of 10 teaching assistants at various levels and we are extremely proud of the work that we do to support our students based on need.  Individual continuing staff professional development is a strong focus for us, underpinned by a core belief that individuals matter and that the strength of any school is based on the quality of its staff.

I have been recently appointed as Headteacher and have found the students and staff most welcoming. The school really does have a family feel, with a very supportive staff team and has great capacity for further improvement. This is a school where you can make a real difference and have a significant impact. If you believe you have the energy and drive to help us improve our provision further, we would love to hear from you.

Best wishes



Vicky Ardern

Headteacher

**Teacher of Drama**

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for showing an interest in this vacancy at Walton-le-Dale High School. Here at Aspirational Futures Multi Academy Trust we firmly believe that providing the best possible working environment for our staff leads to the best possible outcomes for our students.

Parklands is the founder school in our trust, which opened in February 2023. Balshaw Lane Primary School and Highfield Community Primary School joined us at Easter 2024 and Walton-le-Dale High School joined on 1st June 2024. Soon to join us later this year Gillibrand Primary School and as a newly established trust, we are at the beginning of an exciting journey, and we are looking forward to deeper collaboration within our family of schools and beyond.

In our trust we place enormous emphasis on professional development, underpinned by research, for our staff. We aim to ensure our students finish their education with us as well-rounded, well-grounded individuals who will make a positive contribution to society, which is partly achieved by ensuring our workforce is professionally challenged and supported by comprehensive CPD programmes. We are not, however, an exams factory, as successful individuals must also be equipped with the skills and qualities necessary in today’s global society. Our personal development programmes along with an abundance of opportunities for student leadership and extra-curricular activities result in compassionate, open-minded and inquisitive young people who are willing and able to make a difference.

Staff in our trust benefit from:

* a culture that actively promotes a positive work-life balance
* a culture that promotes well-being initiatives
* access to UK Healthcare (<https://www.ukhealthcare.org.uk/>) helping staff with the cost of everyday health expenses such as visiting the opticians, paying for glasses, dental treatment and even paying for prescriptions, up to agreed policy limits. Employees can also claim an allowance for hospital admissions, whether NHS or private, access telephone counselling services and receive a discount on gym membership to keep them fit and motivated for work.
* opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities and school trips
* an open-door policy, allowing any colleague to speak with a member of the Senior Leadership Team without an appointment
* excellent relationships between the Trade Unions and the trust schools

Staff at Walton-le-Dale High School benefit from:

* Free access to our state-of-the-art gym before and after school, as well as during school holidays.

Thank you again for taking the time to read this application pack, which, along with the school’s and the trust’s websites, will have inspired you to apply for the advertised post.

Kind regards,

Steve Mitchell

Chief Executive Officer

**The Drama Department**

The Drama department is a small team that works collaboratively and supportively. Teachers are committed to creating a curriculum that inspires all learners to be confident communicators and to explore their own creativity. Teachers of this subject aim to ensure that Drama is taught in a safe and supportive way and that all students are able to access the subject.

As a team, the department strives to refine and improve teaching and learning to maximise curriculum time by creating meaningful experiences for all pupils in KS3. In KS4, students are encouraged to develop their skills to a higher level and explore what it means to be a dramatist. Those opting for the subject at KS4 will follow the AQA GCSE specification.

The teachers of this subject understanding the building blocks for successful drama learning and how this works into a final ‘composite’ piece of work, drawing on all skills and knowledge simultaneously.

Co-curricular opportunities outside of timetabled lessons are pivotal in providing students at Walton-le-Dale with opportunities to develop their confidence, creativity and expression. In previous years, the co-curricular drama clubs have allowed students to develop relationships beyond the classroom and to hone their skills within this subject. Productions and theatre trips have been a regular provision and these are included in the vision for this subject.

In school, there are two spaces available for teaching Drama: the Arts Theatre and the Drama Studio. The former is a purpose-built black box studio, complete with a lighting rig, movable seating and sound desk.

**Temporary Teacher of Drama**

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| Job Description |

**Post Title: Teacher of Drama**

**Salary: Main/Upper Pay Scale (subject to experience)**

**line management:** N/A

**TLR:** Possibility of 2.2 as CL of Expressive Arts

**Contract type & term: Temporary for one year in the first instance, full-time**

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| **Overall Purpose of Post** |

We are seeking a temporary teacher of Drama with excellent qualiﬁcations, who is enthusiastic and dynamic with a strong ambition to improve our provision. We are looking for a colleague who will work collaboratively with the team, is receptive to innovative practices, and is an inspirational and motivational practitioner. You will also be expected to take an active role in all aspects of the wider curriculum including form tutor role and contribution to our PD curriculum.

The ethos of the department is one of engagement, enjoyment, excellent teacher/student relationships and expectations of high standards for all students, regardless of their starting point. We are seeking someone who will help to create a safe and supportive learning environment for pupils to explore their own creativity. A sense of humour and the ability to be a team player are vital.

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| **Duties and Responsibilities** |

The successful candidate will:

* be an excellent teacher
* be a strategic and innovative thinker
* be committed to raising achievement and levels of progress for all learners
* be focused on improving teaching and learning
* be able to inspire and motivate students and colleagues
* be a team player with excellent interpersonal and communication skills
* have excellent subject knowledge
* be willing to support the annual production and theatre trips
* be fully invested in their own CPD, and the development of others
* have experience of quality assurance processes (desirable but not essential)

**Closing Date: 12 noon Monday 2nd September 2024**

**Proposed Interview Date: Week commencing 9th September 2024**

The application form can be downloaded from the vacancies page of the website: <https://www.waltonledale.lancs.sch.uk/>. In addition, please submit an accompanying statement to outline how your experiences demonstrate that you meet the person speciﬁcation. Please include here details of your experience and your suitability for the post—maximum 2 sides of A4, size 12 font.

Please return applications by email, marked ‘Teacher of Drama application’ to: admin@wldhigh.co.uk

For an informal discussion, please contact Rachel Long, SLT Link for Expressive Arts, either by telephone or email at rlong@wldhigh.co.uk Visits to the school are welcomed.

Walton-le-Dale High School is committed to safeguarding and the process of safer recruitment. As a result, this post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check, and all shortlisted candidates will be subject to online checks and expected to prove their identity at interview. The successful candidate will be expected to show original copies of qualiﬁcations and further proof of their identity.

 *This job description, and associated responsibilities, are subject to annual review.*

*July 2024*

**Teacher of Drama: Job Description and Person Specification**

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| **Job Title** | Teacher of Drama |
| **Department** | Drama |
| **Responsible to** | Curriculum Leader, SLT Line Manager, Headteacher |

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| **Working time** |
| 1. 190 days (or part time equivalent) of teaching a designated timetable plus 5 days (or equivalent) in which the teacher may only be required to perform other duties.
2. Any other session as directed by the Principal

 **Prompt attendance and leadership/participation as appropriate in:**1. Staff Briefings - 8.35am every day and any other designated meetings.
2. Agreed pre-school, break, lunchtime and post school duties

**Calendar:**1. Full participation at directed time events on the annually published calendar.
2. Attendance at calendar sessions, meetings and INSET will be agreed at the start of the academic year.
3. Attendance at optional CPD opportunities.
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| **Safeguarding** | To report all information and concerns to the Designated Senior Leader.This should be completed promptly, factually, and in line with the school’s confidentiality requirements. |
| **Health and Safety** | To comply with the school’s Health and Safety Policy and report all information and concerns to the designated representative. This should be completed promptly. |

**Main duties:**

**1) Principal responsibilities:**

* To contribute to high quality teaching and learning in Drama including the production of shared resources.
* To participate in the development and implementation of appropriate syllabi, materials and schemes of work reflecting the school’s published aims, policies and procedures. This includes the School SEF and development plan, teaching and learning policy and behaviour policy.
* To maintain accurate and complete assessment records and use them constructively to inform learning and to report to parents as required.
* To participate in the process of student target-setting, developing and implementing schemes of work and maintaining progressive learning outcomes in lessons.
* To attend and contribute to department meetings, TLC sessions, Twilight sessions, and INSET training as required.
* To contribute to the Quality of Education in the Drama department.
* To participate in subject specific CPD opportunities that maximise the quality of Teaching and Learning in Drama.
* To work with the Curriculum Leader to analyse data and implement any required strategies to address underperformance.

**2) Additional specific responsibilities:**

* To be the form teacher of an assigned form.
* To undertake the pastoral care and guidance of each individual in the form and monitor their academic progress.
* To deal with and administer all routine business connected with the form, including returns as required.
* To take responsibility for the conduct of Form time.
* To provide or contribute to reports and keep records as appropriate.
* To check and comment on reports to parents as needed.
* To monitor the personal appearance and behaviour of the form and insist on a high standard.
* To attend and contribute to assemblies when required and actively supervise the form's movement both to the place of assembly and whilst it is in progress.
* To attend House meetings.

**3) General duties:**

* To have responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the young people for whom you are responsible and all those you may come into contact with.
* To mark the register of all groups in accordance with the procedures determined by the attendance policies.
* To carry out a share of supervisory duties in accordance with published schedules.
* To share responsibility for good order and discipline in the school.
* To participate in appropriate meetings with colleagues and parents or carers.
* To participate in Appraisal and School Self Evaluation arrangements.
* To adhere to published school policies.
* To be courteous to colleagues, students and parents and provide a welcoming environment to guests.
* To discharge your duty of care for your own and others’ health and safety.

**4) Please note:**

* The above responsibilities are subject to the general duties and responsibilities contained in the "School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document".
* This job description does not direct the particular amount of time to be spent on carrying out any of your duties and no part of it may be so construed.

Other duties will be required as and when necessary to the post from time to time. The job description is current at the date shown but, in conjunction with the postholder, may be revised by the Headteacher to reflect and anticipate changes in the job. These would be commensurate with the grade and job title. Such variations that are made to the duties and responsibilities will not change the general character of the post.

All aspects of the post will be evaluated by appropriate means including discussions with those staff the holder is responsible to, including the Headteacher and members of the SLT.

Please advise the school of any disability you may have or develop so that the school may endeavour to make any necessary reasonable adjustments to the job and the working environment.