



# WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

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## Head of Drama

0.6FTE (FTE to increase with growth of department)

Permanent Position | Start Date: September 2026





## Welcome from the Headteacher

**Dear Candidate,**

Thank you for your interest in the role of Head of Drama at Woodford County High School. This appointment marks a truly exciting moment in our school's development, and I am delighted that you are considering joining us at such a pivotal time.

The creation of a brand-new Drama department is a significant and intentional step for Woodford. Our pupils are bright, thoughtful, creative and deeply curious young people, and they deserve a curriculum that both challenges them academically and nurtures their wider talents, passions and identities. For some time, Drama has been an area of enormous interest and enthusiasm among our students, and we are now ready, as a community, to place it at the heart of their educational experience.

From September 2026, we will welcome our first ever GCSE Drama cohort. This marks not just the start of a course, but the start of a cultural shift within the school: Drama will take its rightful place as a central, celebrated part of our curriculum and co-curricular life. I am fully committed to ensuring that this new department has the time, resources and leadership it needs to thrive.

This role provides a rare opportunity to build something exceptional from the ground up: to design the curriculum, shape the ethos, lead productions and enrichment, and create a vibrant and ambitious hub of creativity for our students. You will play a defining role in establishing the identity and trajectory of Drama at Woodford for years to come.

As Headteacher, I care deeply about ensuring that our pupils have access to a broad, rich and engaging curriculum, one that stretches them academically while also supporting their personal growth, confidence and wellbeing. Drama will be a vital part of that vision. I am genuinely excited to welcome a leader who shares our belief in the transformative power of the arts and who sees the enormous potential of our students.



Thank you once again for your interest. I hope you find this opportunity as inspiring as we do, and I look forward to the possibility of welcoming you to our school.

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Van Praagh'.

Gemma Van Praagh  
Headteacher  
Woodford County High School





## Job Description

**Job Title:** Head of Drama

**Contract:** 0.6 FTE for Academic Year 2026–27, rising to 0.8/Full Time from September 2027

**Responsible to:** Senior Leadership Team / Line Manager

**Responsible for:** Establishing and leading the Drama department; Drama curriculum; Drama staff (as the team grows); extracurricular Drama provision; whole-school Drama enrichment

**Start Date:** September 2026

**Salary:** MPS/UPS (depending on experience) + TLR

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## Purpose of the Role

This is a unique and exciting opportunity to establish a *brand-new* Drama department at Woodford County High School. The Head of Drama will shape the strategic vision, create the curriculum from the ground up, and lead the development of a high-quality Drama provision that enriches the cultural life of the school.

With our first ever GCSE Drama cohort beginning Year 10 in September 2026, this role is ideal for someone passionate about Drama education and eager to build an exceptional department for our bright, curious and vibrant pupils, who are more than ready for Drama to become a key part of their curriculum.

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## **Key Responsibilities**

### **Leadership & Establishment of the Department**

- Establish and lead a brand-new Drama department from inception.
- Design and sequence a full Drama curriculum for KS3–KS4 (and KS5 if applicable) from scratch. (Ready for implementation in September 2027)
- Lead the setup of Drama spaces, resources, systems and policies.
- Set high expectations, a clear departmental identity, and a strong culture of creativity and ambition.
- Plan for the growth of the department, including future staffing and curriculum pathways.

### **Teaching & Learning**

- Deliver consistently high-quality teaching that inspires, supports, and challenges pupils.
- Ensure excellent preparation and provision for the GCSE Drama qualification beginning September 2026.
- Use assessment and data to monitor progress and secure excellent outcomes.
- Foster a positive and inclusive learning environment.

### **Enrichment, Productions & Partnerships**

- Lead school productions, showcases, performances and Drama events.
- Create a rich extracurricular programme, including clubs, theatre visits and partnerships with professional theatre companies/practitioners.
- Champion Drama as a subject that builds confidence, communication, teamwork and creativity.



## **Safeguarding & Compliance**

- Maintain the highest standards of safeguarding.
  - Ensure safe practice in performance spaces and with equipment.
  - Contribute to wider school duties and whole-school priorities.
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## **Person Specification**

### **Essential**

- QTS and a strong record of excellent teaching.
- Relevant degree or appropriate alternative qualification.
- Deep passion for Drama education and the ability to inspire pupils and colleagues.
- Strong organisational skills and the creativity to build a department from scratch.
- Experience leading productions, enrichment or curriculum design.
- A collaborative and reflective approach.

### **Desirable**

- Experience of middle leadership or subject leadership.
  - Experience designing new curricula or setting up new qualifications.
  - External links with arts organisations or the theatre industry.
  - Experience teaching at KS5.
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## **Safeguarding & Equal Opportunities**

Woodford County High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The successful candidate will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check and comply with Keeping Children Safe in Education. We are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion. This school has a zero tolerance for sexual harassment in the workplace.





## How to Apply

Please note that your application will be photocopied for distribution to the Headteacher and members of the Selection Panel so clarity is, therefore, of the essence. The application process requires you to complete the following tasks:

- 1. Complete the School's Application Form. Please ensure all boxes are completed and a full chronology of employment included.**
- 2. With reference to the person specification, write an accompanying statement demonstrating where, how and why you consider you meet the person specification criteria.**
- 3. Provide two professional referees, one of whom should be your current Headteacher.**

*Your statement should be no more than 2 sides of A4 in length, typed in Arial 12 point and should not repeat information included on the Application Form. Please also note, you are not expected to respond to every aspect mentioned in the person specification.*

By completing the application process as requested, you will assist the Selection Panel in shortlisting, so they can clearly determine whether you meet their requirements. The Headteacher and governors are absolutely committed to ensuring this recruitment process is fair and transparent. Please note CVs and other forms are not acceptable. Woodford County High School for Girls is totally committed to safeguarding children. Successful candidates will undergo an enhanced DBS check and prudent checks will be made of references and employment history.

Your completed application form and statement should be returned to Mrs N. Diamond, EA to the Headteacher, via [recruitment@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk) not later than **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 at 9am.**

***Applications will be considered on receipt, and we reserve the right to appoint at any time.***

If you have not heard further a week after the date for application submission you must regrettably assume that you have not been successful.

Please contact the Headteacher's EA, Mrs Natalie Diamond via [recruitment@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk) if you have any further questions.