



PALMERS GREEN
HIGH SCHOOL

LEAD TEACHER OF DRAMA WITH ENGLISH CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

INTRODUCTION

Palmer's Green High School (PGHS) seeks to appoint a well-qualified, enthusiastic and inspirational teacher to join our dynamic and successful English and Drama Department.

This is an exciting opportunity for a talented and committed teacher to join a school that works collaboratively to get the very best from all pupils. The successful candidate will teach Drama and English across the age range in the Senior School with the possibility of some teaching in the primary section of the school. The successful candidate will have excellent subject knowledge and be highly creative and adaptable.

In addition to curriculum teaching, the postholder will be expected to contribute to the school's extensive range of extracurricular activities, organise regular theatre visits, and to take a leading role in direction and production of high-quality performance opportunities for pupils of all ages. This will involve collaboration and liaison with colleagues in other departments including Music, Design and Technology, Art, Physical Education and the site team.

The post is offered on a full-time basis with a competitive salary in accordance with the PGHS Scale. The role could potentially have a teaching allocation suited to a part-time role (0.8). This can be discussed before or at interview.

The closing date for applications is Monday 29th April at 12 noon. Interviews will take place during the week commencing 6th May or 13th May. The school reserves the right to interview suitable candidates before the closing date so early applications are encouraged.

THE SCHOOL

Founded in 1905 by Miss Alice Hum, a Quaker, Palmer's Green High School is unique in the North London area because it is a small selective school providing challenging and stimulating educational opportunities for approximately 300 girls aged 3-16 from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds.

The school's motto "By Love Serve One Another" was set by its founder and, whilst Miss Hum was a Quaker, the school has no official religious affiliation, although it celebrates Founder's Day and Christmas with services held at the church of St John The Evangelist on Bourne Hill, where some PGHS lessons were taught during World War II when Keble Preparatory School for Boys had to share the main PGHS site in Hoppers Road.

Girls from Reception to Year 11 are taught on the main school site, situated in a residential road in Winchmore Hill. The PGHS Nursery for 3-4 year olds is situated in Bush Hill Park, some 10 minutes' drive from the main school. This section of the school is housed in a purpose-designed single storey building, which was originally a Plymouth Brethren Meeting House.



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ACADEMIC INFORMATION

You will be teaching bright, interested and hard-working pupils in small classes (average 14) in an academically selective girls' independent school.

In January 2022, ISI carried out a Focused Compliance and Educational Quality inspection and reported that PGHS was fully compliant and graded the Educational Quality of the school as excellent. The school has an outstanding record of academic success in public examinations. In 2023, the school's overall percentage of GCSEs A*/9/8 grades was a magnificent 41% and A*/9 to A/7 a fantastic 69%, placing our pupils amongst the top performers in the country.

DRAMA AND ENGLISH AT PGHS

We believe that all pupils should develop an understanding and appreciation of the performing arts. Participation in Drama offers every pupil the opportunity to develop confidence, communication, collaboration, creativity and imagination. At PGHS, pupils from Reception onwards have timetabled curriculum Drama lessons. Basic Drama skills are taught, using text and improvisation. Drama is offered at GCSE with pupils currently following the WJEC Eduqas course. Results in Drama from 2019 to 2023 were:

Drama	9-7%	9-6%
2023	67	67
2022	33	78
2021	92	100
2020	86	100
2019	67	89

In addition to curriculum Drama, many pupils at PGHS take LAMDA Speech and Drama lessons, taught by our part-time Drama teacher who teaches Drama to our Junior and Prep classes. This colleague is also a key member of the team for productions and examined practical components of the GCSE Drama.

Extra-curricular Drama is thriving. There are weekly extra-curricular activities such as Musical Theatre Club and Improv Club. The department organises regular theatre trips to central London shows and recently has taken senior pupils to: Guys and Dolls, The Little Big Things, Wicked and Metamorphosis.

There are currently several annual productions: the Prep department nativity, Junior department end of year productions including the Year 6 celebratory production in the summer term and a Whole School production which involves pupils in both the Junior and Senior sections of the school. In 2023, we staged a production of Matilda Jr. and in 2024, a production of Grimm Tales. There is scope for the scale and number of productions to grow.





The post will include after school commitments and non-contact time for production preparation. As productions approach, there will be some weekend commitments. The postholder will have a reduced teaching timetable and the precise teaching commitment will be sensitively planned.

There are two teaching groups per year for English. Year 10 and Year 11 prepare for Pearson EdExcel IGCSE English Language and English Literature. Class sizes are small with an average of fourteen pupils per teaching group.

The English results from 2019 to 2023 were:

English Language	9-7%	9-6%	English Literature	9-7%	9-6%
2023	73	91	2023	77	86
2022	85	96	2022	85	96
2021	96	100	2021	96	96
2020	89	100	2020	83	100
2019	96	96	2019	84	96

The English department runs lunchtime and after school academic support sessions (surgeries) and offers extra-curricular activities such as debating, poetry club and book club. The department works closely with the School Librarian to organise events such as World Book Day, Carnegie Shadowing and a number of visiting authors and poets each year. Pupils are encouraged to enter national competitions and many have been successful in having their poems and short stories selected for publication.

At PGHS all staff members are expected to give generously of their time to provide individual guidance for pupils – especially those who are pursuing GCSE courses. This may include before, during and after school study sessions and occasional weekend workshops, when required.

THE POST

The successful candidate will be capable of delivering the Drama curriculum across the senior age range and ability spectrum with enthusiasm and expertise. They are likely to have previous experience of teaching GCSE Drama and experience of direction / tech and production. The postholder will also be expected to teach English up to upper KS3. An ability to also teach English Literature and Language at KS4 will be an advantage.

The successful candidate will be able to establish strong rapport with the pupils in order to harness their interest and encourage positive, active engagement. A high level of personal organisation and inter-personal skills is essential in order to liaise with colleagues, pupils, parents and the SMT/SLT.





The successful candidate will be an ambassador for the School and the department both within the School and in the wider community. They will benefit from opportunities offered through access to internal and external training and development.

The successful candidate will be expected to take a share in pastoral care acting as a tutor to a small group of pupils.

PGHS welcomes applications from those currently teaching in either the maintained or independent sector.

The post is offered on a full-time basis with a competitive salary in accordance with the PGHS Scale. The role could potentially have a teaching allocation suited to a part-time role (0.8). This can be discussed before or at interview.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate the following:

- A strong academic background, with at least a good honours degree and PGCE or equivalent;
- Awareness, understanding and, ideally, experience of issues relating to safeguarding the health, welfare and safety of children;
- High personal and professional standards;
- Positive working relationships with colleagues and the ability to work as a member of a team;
- Excellent time management and organisational skills;
- Ability to take responsibility and to show initiative;
- Ability to contribute to developing new teaching and learning strategies and willingness to contribute to the extra-curricular programme;
- Thorough knowledge of the subject and an interest in current developments;
- Ability to use a variety of teaching and learning styles;
- Ability to convey infectious enthusiasm for the subject;
- Experience in the use of ICT to support the teaching of English and Drama;
- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people;
- Motivation to work with children and young people;
- Positive attitude to managing behaviour in the classroom.

THE PROCESS

Applicants are asked to complete the TES online Application Form. The closing date for applications is Monday 29th April at 12 noon. Interviews will take place during the week commencing 6th May or 13th May. The school reserves the right to interview suitable candidates before the closing date so early applications are encouraged.





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Palmers Green High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All successful candidates will be required to undertake a criminal record check via the DBS. The school will also undertake checks with past employers. It is an offence for a person barred from working with children to apply for this post.

Palmers Green High School is committed to Equal Opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



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