



# FOREST SCHOOL

## 11+ Drama Scholarships at Forest School

### Frequently asked questions

#### **How do I register?**

When you register your interest at Forest there is a box to tick on the form to indicate that you would like your child to be considered for a Drama scholarship. You will then be contacted by the Admissions office who will ask you to complete a form giving information about the details of your son/daughter's experience in Drama and Theatre.

The auditions will take place over two days, one on December 7th and if your child is successful at this first-round, they will be invited to a second-round audition in January following the entrance exam.

The Admissions team will be in touch with the successful candidates and arrange a time for their second audition.

#### **What can be awarded? What is the difference between an Exhibition and a Scholarship?**

There are two types of awards: Exhibitions and Scholarship. An Exhibition is a monetary award that pays for the cost of Speech and Language tuition with one of our specialist LAMDA or Trinity teachers. It is equal to one year of private tuition. Exhibitions can be used for tuition with Forest Speech and Language teachers only.

When an Exhibition is awarded it is given for the entire school career of the pupil if they choose to continue Speech and Language lessons for that duration. If the pupil chooses to cease their private Speech and Language tuition, no monetary replacement will be offered. Scholarship is remission from fees. We can award up to a maximum of 20% remission. Some candidates will be offered both Scholarship and Exhibition(s), some just Scholarship, and some only Exhibitions.

Both Exhibitions and Scholarships are recognition of true potential within Drama and will afford the pupil access to the scholarship programme supporting their development as actors/theatre practitioners as well as overall Forest scholars.

#### **How many places are available?**

There is not a fixed number of places for Drama Scholarships. The Director of Drama makes recommendations after the audition process. If no candidates meet the standard no offers will be made; if there are many strong candidates, then a panel of senior staff will decide how to divide up the offers.

### **Can I combine Scholarships, and can that extend beyond the 20% limit?**

Scholarship awards can be combined. Many pupils have, for example, both Academic and Music Scholarship/ Sport and Music Scholarship or a combination of all disciplines offered as awards. However, the total combined award cannot extend above 20% remission.

### **What happens at the audition?**

The first-round audition will last for two hours as they will be invited to partake in two workshops. One which will explore characterisation and physical theatre, the other their approach to text work.

The candidates do not need to prepare for the first audition as we are truly looking for potential and ability rather than rehearsed pieces at this point. The workshops will be fun and collaborative with the candidates working together as they would in Drama lessons and as part of theatre productions.

### **What experience does my child have to have?**

This is really the wrong question to be asking. Better would be what Drama skills and qualities are you looking for? We are looking for ability, skill and potential. Of course, experience will help develop a child's skills and confidence, however extensive experience of Drama clubs/lessons does not always translate to an aptitude for acting.

A successful candidate will be able to confidently approach the auditions with curiosity and a desire to learn new skills and demonstrate a true passion for the theatre.

### **What if my child hasn't had drama lessons before?**

That is fine. In the application form we will ask some questions, that will allow you and your child to tell us why acting and theatre is their passion, and why they believe that a Drama scholarship would be right for them and their personal development at Forest.

### **What is required of a Drama Scholar?**

We ask our Drama Scholars and Exhibition holders to participate in at least two Drama productions during their time at Forest (although most of them are in more!).

Of course, there are many pupils, not just Drama scholars who want to be in the productions so your child may not be selected to perform in every show, however we do ask that they contribute in some way to at least two productions.

That could be backstage, helping with props and costumes, helping front of house or supporting with a number of opportunities within the theatre. Learning about Theatre as an industry in its entirety is very important, not just developing their acting/performance skills.

The successful candidates will be the ones who love Drama and are working hard - we just want them to keep doing that. By doing so and participating in the theatrical life of the School, they will be our leading lights, setting an example of enthusiasm, curiosity and dedication to the many other Forest pupils who are interested in the theatre but not award holders.

### **What is your best advice for preparation for the assessment?**

For the first-round audition- nothing. We want to see their potential, love of drama/theatre and ability to collaborate, take direction, and enjoy the work.

For the second round, should they be selected, they will be asked to prepare a short monologue from a published play. We will give further information in the invitation letter; however, our general advice would be not to try to perform anything that is not ready, unprepared, half-done, or too difficult. Do not choose texts that are too complicated or way beyond the life experience of a person their age.

We will also send a selection of monologue options in case you are stuck/need some inspiration. You may use them if you wish or just use them as a guide for the kind of thing we are looking for. By performing pieces that are age appropriate and your child knows and enjoys, they will be able to show true performance ability. That means, the text will come to life, will be nuanced and expressive.

### **I don't want to put my son/daughter under too much pressure – what should I do?**

We want to make the audition process as positive and welcoming as possible. We appreciate that the pupils will be nervous, but we will do what we can to put them at ease and give them encouragement.

Ultimately, the decision to go for an award must be taken between you and your son/daughter. To gain advice about whether your child should apply you can arrange a pre-discussion with the Director of Drama.

*To arrange a pre-audition discussion please contact*

**Isabella Gilpin**

*Co-curriculum Manager*

*Email: [igilpin@forest.org.uk](mailto:igilpin@forest.org.uk)*

### **When will we find out if we have been successful?**

All the correspondence dealing with offers is sent during February half-term. Should you have any other questions or need more information please contact the Admissions team.



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