



MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

DRAMA AWARDS (16+)

The last few years have seen exciting developments in the scope, facilities and output of drama at MCS. The school benefits from a unique partnership with the Oxford Playhouse, resulting in use of their space on multiple occasions throughout the year, meaning that pupils have access to an impressive selection of professional performance spaces. Our partnership with the Pegasus Theatre has given us access to another high-quality space, in which we run our Performance and Technical Academies.

The range of MCS productions is significant, with up to fifteen high quality productions being staged each year: opportunities for sixth-form actors include an annual large-scale musical (recently *Singin' In The Rain* and *Me and My Girl*) and Greek play (*Antigone*, *Oedipus*) in the Michaelmas term, Sixth Form plays in Hilary (*Marmaduke*, *1984*, *Hamlet*, *Constellations*), and a host of dramatic opportunities from Trinity Term into the summer holidays. These include an open-air production on School Field (*The Tempest*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Twelfth Night*) and a main stage production at the Oxford Playhouse which is usually the world premiere of a major new work: *The Hobbit* (2023) performed to two thousand people and earned a 5* review from the Oxford Times, while *The Odyssiad* (2024) featured on Times national radio. Recent productions of *The Three Musketeers* (2025) and *Sherlock Holmes and the Napoleon of Crime* (2026) have also been staged to excellent four- and five-star reviews. During the summer holiday we rehearse and perform a week-long touring production, often to the Edinburgh Fringe. We frequently stage pieces of new writing; half of the last academic year's productions were newly written for the school.

Drama scholars will be expected to lead by example not just in terms of the quality of their performance skills and commitment to their on-going development, but in the professionalism with which they conduct themselves during the rehearsal process. Whilst it would be expected that scholars would form a significant presence in the casts of MCS's yearly dramatic output, it must be noted that a scholarship is no guarantee of any individual role. The school provides opportunities for scholars to develop their understanding and experience of drama, with regular workshops and mentoring, recently with a focus on physical theatre and stage combat.

On audition day, candidates will have a short informal interview about their experience and interest in theatre and will be required to perform two prepared contrasting monologues totalling roughly three minutes in length; the pieces are entirely of the candidate's choice but we suggest one pre-1900 and one post-1900 choice. Candidates will also be asked to take part in a short paired or group activity, where the aim is to simulate a rehearsal scenario; no preparation is needed. We will have a discussion with the candidate about their particular interests in theatre and what experience they would like to get out of Drama in the Sixth Form.



It should be noted that candidates will be judged very much upon dramatic potential at audition and that a specific dramatic profile, or quantity of prior stage/backstage experience, is not a prerequisite for success.

Scholarships are honorary in nature and do not carry a financial benefit. For financial assistance with fees, please look at our means-tested [Bursary scheme](#).

Drama Scholarship auditions for pupils entering the Sixth Form in September 2027 will take place on **Saturday 7th November 2026**. Applications should be made [online](#) and the closing date for entries is **Friday 9th October 2026 at 8.30am**.