MAGDALEN
COLLEGE SCHOOL

Drama Awards (13+)

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 Middle School actors include an annual Greek play (*Antigone, Oedipus*) in the Michaelmas term, a Middle School Theatre Academy production in Hilary (*Macbeth, Henry V, Frankenstein, Julius Caesar*) in Pegasus Theatre, and a host of dramatic opportunities in Trinity Term. 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.

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. They are also guaranteed a free place in our Middle School Theatre Academy, normally costing £240 across two terms.

On audition day, candidates will have a short informal interview about their experience and interest in theatre and will be required to perform a prepared monologue roughly one minute in length; the piece is entirely of the candidate's choice but we encourage that it is from a play rather than TV or film – we can offer ideas upon request. 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 Middle School.





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 Year 9 in September 2027 will take place on **Saturday 30th Jan 2027**. Applications should be made online and the closing date for entries is **Monday 9th November 2026 at 8.30am**.