



ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY

(HMC & IAPS, CSA, Co-educational, Boarding & Day)
(Church of England Foundation)

Appointment of TEACHER OF SCIENCE (Biology) Full time

THE SCHOOL

St Edmund's School is a co-educational day and boarding school with c. 550 pupils from the ages of 3 to 18. The school is officially designated "a school of religious character". The Choristers of Canterbury Cathedral, who are full members of the Junior School, were incorporated into St Edmund's in 1972. The Head is a member of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) and the Master of the Junior School is a member of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools (IAPS) and of the Choir Schools' Association (CSA).

The Pre-Prep, Junior, and Senior Schools are on the same site and are closely integrated, using the same Chapel, music and art facilities, dining hall, science laboratories and sports hall. The school prides itself on its friendly, family environment where every pupil is known and valued.

Although the majority of children are day pupils, one quarter of the school's pupils are boarders, from a wide range of backgrounds. The school operates a five-day teaching week, but also runs a Saturday morning activities programme which is optional for Senior School day pupils. All boarders participate in both Saturday and Sunday activities programmes.

All full-time members of the Senior School teaching staff are expected to offer and contribute to the full programme of extra-curricular activities and study opportunities on Saturday mornings on a rotational basis.

The school adjoins the University of Kent and is able to make use of many of the University's facilities: the Templeman Library, the Gulbenkian theatre and the public lectures amongst others. London's West End is within easy reach. Further information about St Edmund's may be found on the School's website: www.stedmunds.org.uk.

THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Introduction

There are 14 members of staff who work closely and enthusiastically to provide a high-quality education for all the pupils at St Edmund's School, whatever their ability. The department is friendly and forward-looking, aiming to constantly improve the pupils' experience of Science.

Facilities

The department is housed in a self-contained, two-storey building. There are seven well-equipped teaching laboratories and a multi-purpose classroom in addition to a prep room for each sub-department. Every teaching room has a multi-media projector and internet/WIFI access. Every member of the teaching staff has an office. Excellent audio-visual and reprographic facilities are available in the department.

Staffing and Teaching

The department consists of 11 graduate teachers (we have four Biologists, one who is part-time, three chemists and four physicists, one who is part-time) and three experienced full-time technicians. The Head of Science has overall responsibility for Science teaching from Years 7 – 13 and they work closely with the respective Heads of Chemistry and Physics.

The Senior School operates a two week timetable running on a 30 period week from Monday to Friday with each lesson being 55-60 minutes long. Members of staff with no other major additional responsibilities may expect to teach approximately 36 periods a fortnight dependant on the timetable demands, although a probationary teacher would have a reduced timetable.

Courses

The pupils in Years 7 and 8 are taught the three separate Sciences. They currently have 2 hours per Science per fortnight plus an hour of Science skills teaching a fortnight, following the AQA Activate 1 scheme of work covering most of the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum. In each year, there are three teaching groups: two groups of a similar ability and a third, higher ability group. Pupils do not sit the Common Entrance Examination.

During the first year of the Senior School (Lower 5th/Year 9) pupils study the separate Sciences (3 hours per science per fortnight). There are four teaching groups based on ability and the pupils complete the programme of AQA Activate 2 study for Key Stage 3 and lay foundations for GCSE.

In Years 10 and 11 there are four to five teaching sets depending on the size of the year group. Pupils are set by ability. The pupils have 5 hours per Science per fortnight. Set sizes are typically between 10 and 20 pupils.

At GCSE level the department follows the AQA specification with the intention that the most able pupils will achieve a GCSE in each of the separate Sciences. The majority of pupils will follow the AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy specification leading to the award of two Science GCSEs at the end of Year 11. Pupils can choose A Level course in AQA Chemistry, OCR Biology and AQA Physics. Pupils have nine lessons per fortnight and sets consist of fewer than 12 pupils.

Examination Results

The ability range at St Edmund's School is quite wide and the Science department is justifiably proud of its GCSE results.

In 2019, the pass rates grade 9-4 for GCSE Combined Science was 94%, with 23% achieving Grade 9-7; and the pass rate for Grade 9-4 for GCSE Biology was 100% with 80% Grades 9-7.

In 2019, at A Level, the pass rate A* - E in Biology was 100% with 25% graded A* - A.

THE POST

The successful candidate is likely to have some, or all, of the following attributes:

- A degree in Biology
- A good level of current subject knowledge;
- Experience of teaching Biology to public examination classes;
- An approach to teaching that is varied and flexible, including a willingness to develop skills in the use of ICT as a teaching and learning tool;
- The ability to communicate effectively, both orally and on paper;
- Sound classroom management skills;
- The ability to relate well to pupils of all abilities and to a wide age range;
- The ability to deal confidently with sensitive issues concerning pupil welfare;
- Good organisational skills; reliability in working to deadlines;

The desirable qualities of the successful applicant include:

- A good honours degree in a Biology -related subject;
- A formal teaching qualification;
- Experience of teaching to A-level standard;
- Familiarity with both GCSE and A-level specifications;
- High standards of communication, both oral and written;
- Well-developed ICT skills;
- A willingness to contribute to extra-curricular activities, both within the Science department and as part of the school's sporting, clubs or activities programmes.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The school is a member of the Teachers' Pension Scheme and it is assumed that all teaching staff will continue as members of this pension scheme unless they inform the school otherwise. Fee remission is available to members of staff subject to spaces being available. The staff discount is pro-rated for part-time members of staff. Lunch is offered free-of-charge for all staff whose working hours encompass the time of school lunch and who accept the necessary supervisory role of staff and pupils during this period. Free parking on site is available for all staff.

All members of staff are expected to contribute to the wider life of the school community and are personal tutors to some 8 to 10 pupils. All full-time members of staff contribute to the games and/or activities programmes. New members of staff are expected to complete one night's boarding duty per week for one term in their first year of service.

St Edmund's School Canterbury is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Personal information provided by candidates will be kept on a secure file in the school and will not be released to third parties outside the school without the permission of the person concerned, except where there is a legal requirement so to do.

APPLICATIONS

Applications must take the form of a completed Teaching Staff Application Form, and a concise covering letter outlining the candidate's suitability for the post. The names and contact details (including email addresses) of two referees are required (one of whom must be your current or most recent employer and neither referee should be a relative or someone known to you solely as a friend).

Applications should be emailed to slh@stedmunds.org.uk no later than 09.00am Monday 22nd March 2021. Interviews including lesson observation to take place 23rd-25th March 2021.

If you wish to have an informal chat about the role this can be arranged by emailing slh@stedmunds.org.uk. Please note tours of the School are currently restricted due to Covid-19 safety measures to those selected for interview only.