



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

Appointment of Teacher of RELIGIOUS STUDIES & PHILOSOPHY

**Full-time
(From September 2021)**

THE SCHOOL

St Edmund's School is a co-educational day and boarding school with c. 570 pupils from the ages of 3 to 18. 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.

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 and the Archbishop of Canterbury is Patron of the school. 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).

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 (up to 8 mornings per academic year).

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 OPPORTUNITY

The post arises because of the retirement of the current Head of Department and includes teaching to both GCSE and A-level. The role is full time and permanent (subject to the successful completion of a probationary period).

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The following qualities are essential in the successful applicant:

- A degree in a subject related to Religious Studies or Philosophy.
- A good level of current subject knowledge.
- Experience of teaching Religious Studies and/or Philosophy to public examination classes.
- An ability and willingness to teach the subject in a balanced, unbiased way.
- The ability to communicate effectively, both orally and on paper.
- Good classroom management skills.
- 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 relate well to pupils of all abilities and to a wide age range.
- The ability to deal confidently with sensitive issues.
- Good organisational skills; reliability in working to deadlines.

The desirable qualities of the successful applicant include:

- A good honours degree in Religious Studies or Philosophy & Ethics, or equivalent.
- A formal teaching qualification.
- Familiarity with GCSE and A-level syllabuses.
- Recent experience of teaching to A-level standard.
- Experience of teaching world religions.
- High standards of communication, both oral and written.
- Well-developed ICT skills.
- A willingness to contribute to extra-curricular activities within the department.

THE DEPARTMENT

The department seeks to honour and value the diversity of religious traditions found in our modern, multicultural society.

The philosophy of the department is based on the fundamental conviction that Religious Studies & Philosophy has the potential to be one of the most exciting and intellectually stimulating subjects in the school curriculum. Our aim is to be at least as intellectually demanding as any other academic subject, but also to “transcend the informative” and to study human responses to fundamental questions about the value of our own existence. More generally, to prepare pupils well for life after school, they will need to know how people in their own country and elsewhere in the world are affected by the diversity of religions and

ideologies by which they live. Although the school is a Christian foundation and has a distinctly Christian character, the department is not engaged in converting pupils to a particular religious viewpoint or tradition or in compromising pupils' integrity by promoting the view of any one religion as superior to others. Thus the department attracts pupils of varied religious traditions and none, all of whom have studied with equal success.

In summary, the aim of the department is to engage pupils in an intellectually rigorous and honest exploration of the fundamental questions of life, enabling them to study about religious beliefs and to learn from those beliefs.

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 full-time members of staff subject to spaces being available and at the Governors discretion. 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 is available on site 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.

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 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 26th April 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.