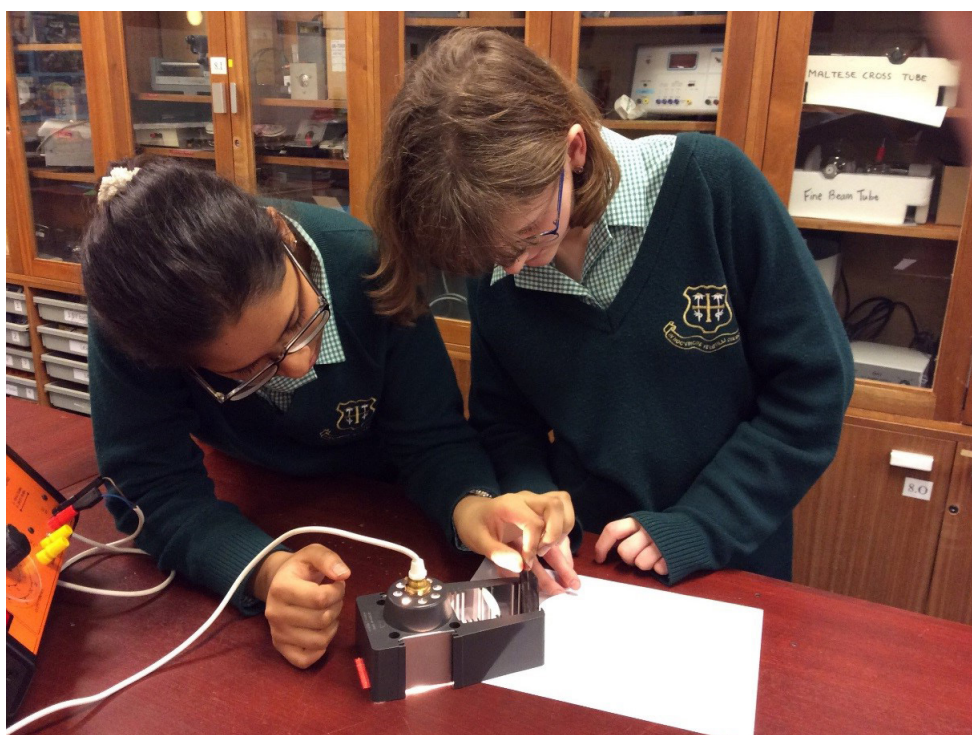


Teacher of Physics

required for September 2018

Recruitment Pack



St Helen's School
Eastbury Road, Northwood, HA6 3AS
Tel: (01923) 843210
Email: recruitment@sthelens.london
www.sthelens.london



St Helen's School

Teacher of Physics

Thank you for showing an interest in this post.

We hope that the following information about St Helen's and description of the responsibilities of the post will help you to decide that this is an application which you wish to pursue. We look forward to hearing from you.

The School



St Helen's is an academically selective independent girls' day school of more than 1100 students aged 3 - 18. It is set in over 20 acres of beautiful green space in Northwood, Middlesex, in the vicinity of Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire and with easy access by Underground from central London. It draws pupils from a wide area of north-west London, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire.

We aim to ensure that every girl:

- is excited by learning and the opportunity to excel
- is intellectually curious and thinks independently
- is confident and able to lead as well as be a team member
- has integrity, celebrates diversity and respects others
- uses her talents, energy and enthusiasm for the benefit of the community
- has skills which enable her to become a leader of her community and profession

Our students achieve high academic standards and we encourage them to develop lifelong skills in a diverse range of areas both within and outside the curriculum, and to pursue their individual ambitions. The school is proud of its tradition of providing a balanced and forward-looking education through which the girls can become confident independent learners and leaders in their fields, their professions and their communities.

The School's development plan reflects the Headmistress' Vision for a school which is making the journey from providing an excellent academic education to becoming exceptional in all that it does. At the heart of this is attention to the individual child both in the classroom and through the co-curricular programme and pastoral care.



This is a very exciting time to be joining the School, and the successful candidate will be expected to embrace the culture of the School, which is deeply-rooted in its fine history and is also forward-looking and innovative.

Our twenty-year Estates Masterplan sets out our vision to develop and transform the School's facilities to meet the needs and challenges of education in the 21st century. In 2014 we opened The Centre, a multi-purpose performing arts, lecture and sports facility incorporating The Mint Café. The exciting new Prep School building was opened in 2016 enabling us to use the former Junior School buildings to further improve our Senior School learning and teaching facilities and to provide a single focal point for our Sixth Form. Most recently, our Dining Hall has been redeveloped and an all-weather sports facility opened in the Spring Term 2018. There is also ongoing construction of a new Music School.

The School was inspected by ISI in November 2016 under the new inspection regime and was found to be fully compliant with the Independent School Standards Regulations. We are delighted that the Quality of Education Inspection judged both the achievement of pupils and their personal development to be 'Excellent'. The full report is available on the School website: <http://www.sthelens.london/Inspection-Reports>

The Post

Teacher of Physics

St Helen's seeks to appoint, from September 2018, a teacher who will teach Physics across the Senior School age range to GCSE and A Level, as well our bespoke Year 7 Science course, in this academically excellent school.

This is a unique opportunity for a well-qualified and inspirational teacher which will involve teaching Edexcel IGCSE Physics as well as AQA A Level Physics.

The Senior School

St Helen's Senior School caters for approximately 670 girls from Year 7 to Year 13, including around 160 in the Sixth Form. We accept approximately 100 girls into Year 7 each year, drawn from both our own Prep School and from a wide range of maintained primary and independent preparatory schools in roughly equal proportions.

The broad and balanced education which we provide caters for 'the whole child' in terms of academic excellence and emotional growth. Each girl is encouraged to be a self-motivated and independent learner with the confidence to express her opinions firmly and respectfully, the ambition to aim high in everything she does, and the curiosity to develop broader interests both within and outside the classroom.



In Year 7 the girls engage with a broad and challenging programme of study: Mathematics, English, a bespoke skills-based Science course which prepares them for study of the three separate science subjects from Year 8, Computer Science, History, Geography, Drama, Art, Music, Design & Technology, Latin, Religious Studies, Physical Education, PHSCE and a choice of two modern foreign languages: French, German, Spanish or Mandarin.

The girls take IGCSE examinations in the core subjects of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology in Year 11, as we believe that these currently provide the best preparation for study at A Level and university. The remaining subjects are a mixture of GCSEs and IGCSEs. Classical Civilisation, Classical Greek, Italian and Japanese are offered as new courses in Year 10, which lead to the GCSE qualification.

A Level examinations have now changed from the AS and A2 model to a system in which only examinations taken at the end of the course of study count towards the full A Level qualification. As a result of this, we have decided to reclaim the summer term of Year 12 for learning and teaching by allowing the girls to take an AS examination only in the subject which they will not take through to full A Level. Some girls will take 3 A Level courses and the Extended Project Qualification.

Computer Science is a vital element in the curriculum: we possess a number of computer rooms and a fully-equipped Language Laboratory. All staff are provided with an iPad, and classrooms are progressively being upgraded with Apple TV to enable iPads to be used to support teaching and learning. Science, Music, Art and Design & Technology are taught within well-equipped specialist facilities.

On joining Senior School, girls are allocated to a tutor group of approximately 20 girls, although Sixth Form tutor groups are considerably smaller than this. The form tutor plays a central role in the school's pastoral care, and is the first port of call for pupils, teachers and parents. The tutor is able to answer most questions girls and parents have, or to refer them on as necessary. The tutor's main role however is to promote effective academic progress and complete engagement with our extensive co-curricular programme through our mentoring system, which enables every girl to realise her full potential. The House system helps to build a sense of unity across the age range, and the girls take part in friendly House-based competitions in Sport and Performing Arts. The Houses also provide a focus for many of our charitable fund-raising activities throughout the year.

St Helen's girls enjoy a broad range of activities beyond those available in the classroom. Many girls take additional instrumental Music, Ballet or Speech & Drama lessons, and the school day is organised to accommodate a great many co-curricular activities, during lunchtimes as well as after school. Every day girls engage in activities which genuinely broaden their experiences and horizons; from the Heath Robinson Inventors' Club, Model United Nations and Origami Club to a vast array of opportunities to get involved in elite and Social Sport, Music and Drama. Our unique relationship with Merchant Taylors' School allows our girls to enjoy joint ventures with the MTs' boys, including the Phab programme and joint concerts and productions. Many of the girls in the Upper School and Sixth Form (Years 10-13) are either a member of the Combined Cadet Force (run jointly with Merchant Taylors' School) or work towards The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. We have recently extended our Phab provision by providing a regular 'youth club' for disabled guests, supported by girls (and MTs' boys) in Years 10 and 11.



The girls' all-round educational experience is enhanced by a comprehensive programme of educational visits for every year group, and by visiting speakers who complement school-based activities. We promote the values of the St Helen's community through regular Assemblies and House Meetings.

Staff report formally to parents in writing once a year and also hold Parents' Evenings during which parents are able to discuss their daughters' overall progress. Parents are encouraged to visit the School frequently, to attend presentations, end of term concerts, charity events and displays of work. Staff support of concerts, plays and other events is expected. .

The Department

Physics Teacher at St Helen's

In KS1 of our Preparatory School, class teachers start to encourage elementary scientific method, undertaking a number of basic experiments in the course of Science lessons. At KS2 the subject is also taught by class teachers, under the direction of a subject coordinator, in a bespoke Science laboratory with the support of a dedicated technician. There are strong links between Science teachers in the Prep School and Senior School.

In the Senior School, students study a bespoke integrated Science course in Year 7, before studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics in separate lessons from Year 8 onwards with subject specialist teachers. At KS4 all students study the Edexcel IGCSE syllabus, with the majority taking separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics IGCSEs to achieve the Triple Award, and the remainder sitting Dual Award Science.

The Science Faculty in Senior School is led by the Head of Science and Physics, Andrea Adlam, supported by separate subject Departments with Heads of Biology and Chemistry. IGCSE and A Level Science results in recent years have been outstanding and pupil take up of all three Sciences at A Level is excellent.

Fortnightly Departmental meetings take place to ensure continuity and progression through the syllabi, to discuss pupil progress, and to share good practice. Whole Faculty issues such as promoting independent learning, assessment and testing, the use of IT in learning and teaching, staff training and planning for special events are discussed and planned in half-termly Faculty meetings.

Science has its own building which consists of ten laboratories on two floors, ample preparation rooms, storage facilities, and offices. All Departments are well-resourced with class sets of apparatus to carry out a wide range of Biology, Chemistry and Physics experiments and investigations. All laboratories and study areas are networked to the school system. IT is rapidly being integrated within schemes of work, and we are actively seeking to develop and extend our use of IT in the classroom. The Departments are supported by well-qualified, experienced laboratory technicians. Presently in Senior School, there are three full-time and two part-time teachers of Biology, three full-time and three part-time teachers of Chemistry and one full-time and two part-time teachers of Physics.



Teaching at St Helen's

All teachers are expected to ensure the highest standards of teaching and learning by:

- Preparing and delivering challenging and differentiated lessons
- Setting homework in accordance with the School's homework policy
- Marking work in accordance with the School's marking policy
- Using all available data and information to ensure that each student is provided with an appropriate programme of study
- Having a good understanding of the schemes of work they are following and how these fit into the overall scheme of work for the subject they are teaching
- Keeping up to date with developments in the teaching of their subject

Person specification

The successful candidate will have:

Essential:

- A good Honours degree in Physics or related subject
- A teaching qualification such as PGCE or equivalent
- Experience of teaching Physics across the secondary age range to A Level and demonstrable passion for the subject
- The ability to teach the other Science disciplines to Key Stages 3 & 4
- Detailed understanding of current developments in the secondary curriculum and assessment
- A clear motivation to work with young people
- The ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and boundaries with young people
- Commitment to further professional development

Desirable:

- Evidence of further professional development
- Knowledge and experience of how IT, including data logging, can be used to support learning

The successful candidate will:

- Be an exceptional classroom practitioner and inspiring teacher of Physics
- Possess outstanding interpersonal and communication skills
- Have excellent time management and organisational skills
- Be creative, imaginative and energetic
- Be able to motivate others



Person specification (cont.)

The teacher should have knowledge and understanding of:

- Effective learning and teaching styles
- Theory and practice of providing effectively for the individual needs of all children (e.g. classroom organisation, planning, and teaching strategies which remove barriers to learning and which stretch and challenge able, gifted and talented pupils)
- Monitoring, assessment, recording and reporting of pupils' progress
- How assessment supports effective learning
- The need for high quality pastoral support to complement the academic experience of pupils aged 11-18
- The Legislation concerning Equality, Health & Safety, Individual Needs and Safeguarding / Child Protection

The teacher will be able to:

- Promote the School's aims, ethos and whole school approach to learning
- Develop effective relationships with pupils, parents, staff and governors
- Create a happy, challenging and effective learning environment
- Communicate effectively (both orally and in writing) to a variety of audiences
- Work collaboratively with others
- Work in a fast-paced and stimulating environment

The teacher will be able to demonstrate:

- A willingness to participate in the wider life of the School
- A willingness to make a significant contribution to the School's extensive co-curricular programme

Benefits of working at St Helen's include:

- Competitive salary scale with the opportunity to apply for Contribution Awards
- Membership of the Teachers' Pensions Scheme
- Access to the School's swimming pool and fitness suite
- On-site parking and excellent public transport links
- Free lunch and refreshments
- Generous sick pay and maternity pay
- Access to private medical insurance at group rates (contributory)
- A beautiful working environment – the School is set in a conservation site in excess of 20 acres
- A supportive community of highly motivated students and staff



Testimonials from our teachers:

"St Helen's has been a source of great support for me since I arrived. It has enabled me, along with others, to begin my teaching career here and to do a PGCE to become a fully qualified teacher. The help and encouragement that I received from the staff was immense and extremely useful. I have been able to take on other roles in school, and the school has always had a sympathetic ear to requests for training. The working atmosphere at the school is excellent - very friendly and supportive."

"At St Helen's we can pick our own professional development targets, which allows us the opportunity to have ownership of our own career paths. I have learned to coordinate and run meetings and become an effective leader, as well as be part of key changes at St Helen's."

"One of the many reasons I enjoy working at St Helen's is the staff. There is a great sense of working as a team for the betterment of the school and girls. Staff are passionate about their jobs, their teaching and helping the girls to reach their potential. St Helen's is a friendly, warm and welcoming place with a wonderful atmosphere."

The application process:

Applications for this post close at 9.00 am on **Monday 30th April 2018**.

Applicants should complete an application form downloadable from the school website (www.sthelens.london/staff-vacancies). Applicants should highlight in their application any specific curriculum interests they have. They should include the names and contact details of two referees.

Applications may be submitted by email to recruitment@sthelens.london or by post to: The Human Resources Department, St Helen's School, Eastbury Road, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 3AS

The interview process:

Candidates will need to be available for interview on **Thursday 3rd May 2018**.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to spend the day with us and will be asked to teach a one hour lesson to a class in Senior School (Year 7-13). Details of the lesson will be sent out in advance. The lesson will be observed by appropriate members of the School's Leadership Team.

Candidates will have an interview and the interview panel will include members of the School's Leadership Team.

Candidates will also have the opportunity to tour the school and to meet members of the the Science Department staff informally.

The post is subject to various recruitment checks which will include:

1. Enhanced DBS clearance
2. A minimum of two references
3. Proof of right to work in the UK

