



## **Head of German**

### **September 2017**

#### **The Faculty**

The Whitgift Languages Faculty is one of the largest and most vibrant language faculties in the UK with thirty teachers, eight assistants and a faculty administrator. Several classrooms on one of the main corridors of the School are dedicated language teaching rooms and our comfortable offices, a thirty-station language laboratory, 5 assistant rooms and a dedicated Sixth Form computer room are all on a perpendicular corridor enabling that part of the School to have a genuinely international and excitingly language-focused atmosphere.

French, Spanish, German, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese and Latin are taught from Year 7 throughout the school with Classical Greek available from Year 9. All of these languages are offered as IGCSE, A Level and IB options. Six Heads of Department work together under the Head of Faculty: Classics, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish.

The Faculty prides itself on the range and quality of its exchanges and trips. All are organised in-house with the assistance of our Faculty Administrator. These include long-standing exchanges to Tokyo, Albertville, Caen, Munich, Valencia, Berlin, Nuremberg, Toledo, Zaragoza, Taipei and Beijing, as well as trips to such cities as Cologne, Paris, Bilbao, Nantes and Shanghai.

We have a very international intake and pride ourselves on tailoring language provision to the diverse needs of our pupils. We therefore have a large number of pupils who are supported in their language-learning off-timetable. We encourage pupils in their learning of all languages, even those who we do not teach, and aim to support them in formal accreditation of their skills wherever possible. Around a hundred pupils board at Whitgift, around two-thirds of whom come from abroad, which gives us the opportunity to encounter unusual languages and also to teach languages at an unusually high level - we offer all our languages as Language A (native speaker) within the IB for example.

The Faculty is energetic, young, forward-thinking and collegiate. Textbook usage is minimal and a focus is placed on developing innovative and imaginative teaching strategies which challenge and stimulate our pupils. Flexibility, passion, academic rigour and the ability to inspire are amongst the key words which would characterise our ethos. We encourage a plethora of teaching styles and enjoy learning from one another. Strong emphasis is placed on the teaching of grammar, on encouraging pupil use of target language and adapting to the needs of individual pupils. Innovative IT usage is encouraged but we are not fans of IT for the sake of IT.

## **The German Department**

Eight members of staff currently teach within the German Department and are supported in that endeavour by a very helpful German Language Assistant. We are a forward-thinking, dynamic and well-organised department with lots of enthusiasm. Our watchword is academic rigour and we aim to teach pupils about the nature of language as well as improving their fluency in German. We believe in placing a large emphasis on grammar at all levels and this has borne fruit – results last year were exceptionally high (89% A\*/A at IGCSE, 100% A/B at AS and 100% A\*-B at A2) and we had excellent take up into the Sixth Form, giving us a pleasingly large cohort (36 across the Lower and Upper Sixth) despite the competition from other subjects.

We believe in enabling our pupils to place their learning within a real context and therefore offer a number of opportunities to visit German-speaking countries; exchanges to Nuremberg and Munich are very popular, as is our Sixth Form study trip whose destination varies from year to year.

If you have exceptional subject knowledge, an innovative and academic approach which goes far beyond textbook-style teaching, stamina, determination, a passion for taking pupils on trips abroad and are a strong team player, then you are the candidate for us!

## **Current Vacancy**

We are seeking to appoint an academically rigorous, creative and flexible Head of German to manage the Department. She/he would work alongside the Heads of the other languages and report to the Head of Faculty. Outstanding subject knowledge, energy, initiative and the ability to sensitively manage diverse colleagues and inspire pupils are essential traits.

As a Boarding School, stimulating opportunities may be available for the right candidate to contribute to the pastoral care of students as a Boarding Tutor, both resident and non-resident.

## **Curriculum**

We have a small (usually three-form) intake in Year 6. In Year 6, all pupils learn Italian alongside a cultural programme which dovetails with a trip for all pupils to Lake Garda. They also follow a tailor-made Languages Awareness course.

Our Year 7 options are unique in that all pupils study three very different languages. They must choose one Oriental language (Japanese or Chinese), one Romance language (French or Spanish) and one Inflected language (German or Latin). From Year 8 students continue with two of those three languages and are encouraged to take both as IGCSE options although they may in some cases, be given permission to pursue only one language at IGCSE.

We currently enter pupils for Edexcel IGCSE in French, German and Spanish and Edexcel GCSE in Japanese and Chinese. All of our languages are offered within the Sixth Form (German, French, Spanish and Chinese now follow the Pre-U course) and within the IB as *ab initio* subjects, Language

A and Language B Standard and Higher Levels with the exception of Japanese and Chinese where we do not offer Higher Level.

### **Bilingual Teaching at Whitgift**

Whitgift has a long tradition of Bilingual or CLIL teaching (content and language integrated learning). Top sets are created at the beginning of Year 8 in Spanish, German and French. These top sets are then taught using CLIL methods which essentially means that they are taught Geography, History and other content through the means of the language they are learning. This does not replace their normal History or Geography lessons. It means that they develop a much broader vocabulary than one might expect and a great deal more confidence and fluency.

### **The Section Française and Ruta Hispana**

Native or near-native French and Spanish speakers are catered for in the Section Française and Ruta Hispana respectively. Their lessons are close to what pupils of their age would study in France/Spain and involve a great deal of engagement with literature as well as the acquisition of creative and formal essay writing skills.

Specialist teachers are employed to deliver the lessons to the pupils within the Section Française and Ruta Hispana. They are also charged with overseeing curriculum development and marketing.

### **Exchanges**

The Head of each Department is responsible for overseeing the smooth running and finances of the exchanges and trips within their remit and also for considering establishing new links and developing new programmes.

It is expected that all colleagues organise one trip or exchange annually and accompany another. Trips and exchanges take place largely during our holidays.

We have a Faculty Administrator, one of whose roles is to assist with the organisation of exchanges and trips.

### **Contact**

Please feel free to contact Mr Andrew Hunt on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail [ajh@whitgift.co.uk](mailto:ajh@whitgift.co.uk) should you have any questions regarding the Faculty or this position.

### **Conditions of service**

The salary will be on the Whitgift Foundation scale (substantially above national scale) according to qualifications and experience. Accommodation may be available. Assistance is offered towards removal expenses etc., up to £1,000 in total.

All staff are required to make a significant contribution to the co-curricular life of the School and this is reflected in the salary offered. A strong commitment to the pastoral and house system is also anticipated. As a Boarding School, stimulating opportunities may be available for the right candidate to contribute to the pastoral care of students as a Boarding Tutor, both resident and non-resident.

As a result of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, employers now have to verify that new recruits who are not British Nationals are eligible to work in this country. Therefore, any such candidate who is offered a post will be asked to forward a photocopy of their passport and/or visa with their letter of acceptance. It is normal practice for the School to ask for copies of degree certificates and other qualifications at the same time.

Whitgift School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service.

Candidates for this post should apply via our website at [www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies](http://www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies).

***Closing date for applications: Please apply as soon as possible.***