

February 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Teacher of Science (specialism in Biology)

Thank you for enquiring about the post of Teacher of Science with a specialism in Biology.

The post is permanent and will commence in September 2018. It involves teaching Biology and possibly some Physics and Chemistry throughout the age range, up to GCSE and A-level. There is no requirement to teach any other subject but if you wish to teach a subsidiary subject please let us know.

There is a strong extra-curricular programme at Sir Thomas Rich's and the successful candidate will be expected to contribute. The post will include Form Tutor responsibilities. The Form Tutor is a key figure within School; he/she has primary responsibility for the pastoral and academic oversight and monitoring of the pupils in his/her Form.

We are seeking to appoint a person with excellent subject knowledge, enthusiasm and the capacity for hard work. If you wish to be considered, please complete the application form and send it to me with a separate letter of application explaining your suitability for the post. The inclusion of your CV would be welcome.

The closing date for applications is 9.00 am on Monday 26 February 2018.

Thank you for your interest in this vacancy.

Yours faithfully



Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Biology Department at Sir Thomas Rich's School comprises teachers who are hardworking, passionate about their subject and enjoy challenging and engaging the pupils through a variety of approaches to learning. We are a highly successful department, achieving excellent examination results. Over the last three years 82% of students achieved A*/A at GCSE level and 70% A*-B at A level.

At present, Biology is taught by four Biology specialists (two of whom are part time), who also teach some other Science lessons. We are a close knit and supportive team who work together to develop schemes of work, teaching resources and share best practice. As part of a Teaching School we have welcomed a large number of students into the department and have been visited by teachers from other schools to observe our lessons and discuss how we organise our Biology curriculum.

Together with Chemistry, Physics and Geology, the Biology Department forms part of the science group. Each has its own Head of Department, responsible for the day-to-day running of the department.

The majority of Biology teaching takes place in three specialist laboratories with a small number of lessons being taught in other laboratories and classrooms. We are supported by an efficient team of three technicians and are well resourced with practical equipment. The Department has access to the School's computer network with a wide range of subject-based software. Each laboratory has audio-visual equipment and interactive whiteboards. We are also enthusiastic about learning outside of the classroom and organise regular trips including a Year 8 trip to Bristol Zoo to study animal behaviour, Year 10 carry out ecology field work at Slimbridge WWT, Year 12 visit the Oxford Natural History Museum to study evolution and classification and Year 13 attend a four day residential field course in Pembrokeshire.

Year 7 students follow a general science course and then all students are taught Biology as a subject in its own right from Years 8 to 11. Years 8 and 9 are taught as class sets of about 32 students for one double period a week. Each single period lasts about 40 minutes. For Years 10 and 11 the allocation is three periods per week and four periods per week respectively. Set sizes at GCSE range from 22 to 30 students.

At GCSE the Biology Department follows the AQA specification (8461). Separate sciences are taught to most pupils. There is usually a small group of pupils which follows the AQA Science Double Award.

At A-level the OCR Biology A specification is followed (H420). Biology is a popular choice at A-level and attracts many students from other schools. There are at present 100 A-level students in seven sets (four in Year 12 and three in Year 13). Each year many of our students go on to read a Biological or Medical subject at university with successful entries to Oxbridge at regular intervals.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and hardworking colleague to join our team of Biology teachers committed to making Biology interesting and relevant to all ages and abilities within the school.

RCZ February 2018