



## **TEACHER OF PHYSICS**

**FROM SEPTEMBER 2018**

The Portsmouth Grammar School is a leading co-educational school located in the historic heart of Portsmouth. The school is an IB World School and offers the IB Diploma alongside A Level.

This vacancy represents an outstanding opportunity for a well-qualified graduate in Physics, or a closely related subject, to teach in a key department in this excellent school, which is renowned for its scientific tradition.

Applications are invited for this full-time post, to start from September 2018. The school seeks a subject specialist, who inspires young people with their passion for Physics and for teaching, and ensures all pupils reach their full potential. Applications are invited from all those who meet the above criteria, whether they are newly qualified, or more experienced teachers or have yet to commence teacher training.

The school offers excellent training and support to teachers at all stages of their career. PGS teachers convey passion for their subject and seek to maximise progress by knowing their pupils well and adapting their teaching accordingly.

The Physics Department is well resourced with laboratories and staff. In addition to the Head of Department, there are seven full time teachers and two laboratory technicians. The department has six full-sized laboratories and access to a large Science Lecture Theatre, all located in the state of the art Bristow Clavell Science Centre, opened in September 2010.

The Physics Department takes a lead in promoting science to the wider community through outreach work in local schools. Links with local STEM companies are well developed with an annual Lockheed Martin engineering challenge, BAe Systems Schools' Engineering Challenge, strong links with both the Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation and the Radiography Department at the University of Portsmouth and regular visits to Airbus Defence & Space and RAL. Physics teachers run a number of clubs, including Astronomy and Electronics, and there are opportunities to introduce significant stretch and challenge for all year groups. There is also close co-operation with the Science Department in our thriving Junior School.

Physics is taught as a separate subject from Year 9 to Year 13. All Year 7 and 8 pupils study a balanced science programme consisting of five periods of Physical Science (combined Physics and Chemistry) a fortnight, with three separate periods of Biology. Practical work at

all levels is an integral part of lessons and the department is very well resourced, with a wide range of facilities including Picoscopes, a suite of laptops with extensive PASCO data loggers and interactive projection facilities in all labs.

In Years 10 and 11 pupils are taught science subjects in three ability bands. Currently all upper and middle band pupils are entered for AQA GCSE in Physics and lower band for Combined Science: Trilogy. Physics specialists teach all KS4 Physics classes, including Science and Additional Science modules.

Over 50 pupils opt to take either A Level or IB (Higher or Standard Level) Physics, making the subject one of the most popular in the school. The Physics Department offers the OCR A specification at A Level. Results, both at GCSE and A Level, are very strong, even within the context of a first rate academic school. In a normal year between 10-12 pupils also take the Electronics Eduqas A Level. Half of pupils leaving PGS in Year 13 go on to study a science-related course at university including Engineering. A number of pupils go on to Oxbridge success in Engineering and Natural Sciences. PGS has participated in the Physics Olympiad since its inception and pupils routinely receive medals in this national competition. In short, PGS is a leading science school.

The successful applicant will be expected to contribute fully to the pastoral and co-curricular life of the school.

### **Initial Teacher Training**

The school has an established reputation for initial teacher training. We work closely with the University of Southampton and the Independent Schools Teacher Induction Panel to design a course that plays to the strengths of each individual teacher. In the first year, initial training is provided by a subject specific mentor and supplemented by our in house induction process. In the second year this training is enriched by enabling a teaching sabbatical at a link school in the maintained sector, at a time mutually convenient for all involved. This provides invaluable experience of teaching in a different educational setting, provides further professional development and enables an application to achieve Qualified Teacher Status. Following the successful attainment of Qualified Teacher Status, teachers commence their NQT year with us.

### **Benefits**

The Portsmouth Grammar School prides itself on being a caring employer and all staff are encouraged to discuss any aspects of their terms and conditions of employment initially with their line manager and, as necessary, with the Bursar who signs all contracts of employment on behalf of the Governing Body.

The school is a strong supporter of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and its INSET programme provides staff with many personal development opportunities. Examples of school support include financial support for further education such as Masters Degrees.

The school has recently developed with the University of Portsmouth two specific accredited part time Masters Short Courses known as the Developing Educational Leadership and Management (DELM) and Human Resource Management in Education. On completion of each unit 30 Masters Credits are awarded.

Governors annually allow up to three staff to take a half term sabbatical on full-pay in the summer term, with most expenses of the sabbatical covered. The aim of sabbaticals is to develop further professional expertise and also to provide an opportunity for staff to reflect on other aspects of their teaching. Sabbaticals may be based in the UK or overseas.

Key financial benefits of employment at PGS include a generous salary structure supplemented by payment of an additional PGS Allowance. There are many opportunities to take on additional paid responsibilities to assist in the management and operation of the school. The school participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

The school may be able to offer subsidised rental accommodation in Old Portsmouth, for up to one academic year. Please state in your application if this is of interest to you.

The school also has a generous fee concession for the children of teaching staff. The school supports the Cycle to Work scheme and accepts Government's Child Care Vouchers. All members of staff have free use of the school's sports facilities which include a well-equipped Fitness Centre. A two course lunch is provided to all staff during term time.

The school is always looking for innovative ways to improve the working conditions and remuneration of its employees and welcomes suggestions from all staff.

### **How to Apply**

PGS is committed to safeguarding children and the successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure DBS check.

Further information is available on the website at [www.pgs.org.uk](http://www.pgs.org.uk), under the About Us section, or can be requested from the school on 023 9236 4228. An electronic application would be preferable, submitted to [HR@pgs.org.uk](mailto:HR@pgs.org.uk). All applicants should complete an application form, and send a covering letter and full curriculum vitae. Postal applications should be addressed to The Headmaster, The Portsmouth Grammar School, High Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 2LN. Please include email addresses whenever available. All applications should be accompanied by the names, addresses, email and telephone numbers of three referees.

The closing date is noon 27 February 2018. Early applications are encouraged. Interviews are provisionally scheduled for Friday 9 March 2018 and shortlisted candidates are asked to allow the whole day for the interview process.

*February 2018*