

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

JOB DESCRIPTION



Appointment of Head of Physics

From September 2017





The School

Founded in 1432, Sevenoaks enjoys a global reputation as a centre of academic excellence and a flagship school for the International Baccalaureate. A co-educational day and boarding school, it offers a stimulating, intellectually demanding and balanced education for pupils from the age of 11 to 18.

Inspiring facilities, together with expert, enthusiastic and imaginative teaching, provide rich opportunities for students participating in lessons, and a wide variety of sports and the performing arts.

The school's international make-up and outlook promote the principles of tolerance and open-mindedness. About 350 pupils board in the seven boarding houses, and students originate from some 40 countries worldwide.

In 2013 the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) awarded Sevenoaks School the rare accolade of 'Exceptional' for its students' achievement. Sevenoaks was also the highest performing fully co-educational school, and the one with the largest cohort, in the *Sunday Times Parent Power's* top 50 fee-paying schools for the IB in 2015.

This excellence is achieved by bright, motivated students, inspired by highly qualified and dedicated teachers in well-resourced

classrooms. The school has over 150 teaching staff, well supported by a large number of ancillary staff. A professional pastoral team of specialist tutors, boarding house staff and year heads give care and guidance, promoting student happiness. The mutual respect shared by students and staff generates a harmonious and purposeful atmosphere.

Every pupil is encouraged to be curious, creative, critically aware, and to develop his or her passion and talent to the full. Life is fast-paced, dynamic, and expectations are high. At the same time, the school seeks to cultivate in its pupils the habit of reflecting on their learning, and on how they contribute to society more broadly. Ambitious and principled, confident and compassionate, our pupils are prepared for leadership and teamwork in the wider world.

Regular assemblies, tutor group meetings and a programme of talks help the social and emotional understanding in our pupils, and a long tradition of voluntary service and local and international charity projects advances a core set of values across the student body.

The Campus

The school is situated in the Kent market town of Sevenoaks, and has a prime position at the top of the High Street. The 100-acre site,



which includes a number of listed buildings, is beautifully landscaped and adjoins the medieval deer park of Knole. London is only a 30-minute train journey away. Gatwick International Airport is also only 30 minutes away, and there are good transport links to other London airports and the Channel Tunnel.

The school's first-class resources and facilities include a superb sports centre (The Sennocke Centre) opened in 2005. A state-of-the-art performing arts centre (The Space), which provides four outstanding venues for music and drama, was opened in 2010. The next major projects currently underway are a Science & Technology Centre and a Sixth Form Global Study Centre, which the school plans to open in 2018, and new boarding accommodation which should be ready for occupation by 2019.

Teaching at Sevenoaks School

We want all our pupils to enjoy their subjects, to be inspired by their teachers and to become independent, lifelong learners. We have an exceptionally lively, talented and committed staff body. Teachers are enthusiastic and well-qualified graduates. We welcome applications from experienced teachers and newly-qualified teachers but can also provide training including PGCE for those new to the profession. All new staff undertake a comprehensive induction programme.

Sevenoaks is committed to supporting its staff with training and professional development tailored to staff needs and interests.

Teachers at Sevenoaks are innovative and forward-thinking and over 60 staff are involved in the Institutes of Teaching & Learning, Higher Education & Professional Insight, and Service & Entrepreneurship, shaping further development and initiatives for students and staff alike.

Curriculum

All of the 400-plus Sixth Form students pursue the International Baccalaureate Diploma, a programme the school has delivered for nearly 40 years. The Diploma represents, in the school's view, the best preparation for university and for work in a world of global competition. Even more important, it genuinely develops a rich inner life in our students, opening their minds to connections and possibilities within and across the subject disciplines.

It is no surprise that our students leave Sevenoaks to study a wide range of courses in the UK and around the world. All 210 leaving students each year progress to the world's top universities, including up to 25% to Oxford and Cambridge, and 25 or more students to leading US and international universities. They do so with an enlarged capacity for independent



thought and intellectual risk-taking, a strong appetite for learning, and equipped with the skills and personal qualities conducive to a happy and successful life.

In order to support our ethos and aims, we have developed a number of Sevenoaks School Certificate courses, which students take instead of GCSEs, in English Literature, the Expressive Arts and Technology. The SSCs (which are fully recognised by UCAS) give teachers the independence and creative scope to shape a richly satisfying curriculum. In Years 9-11 all students take courses in critical thinking – *Critical Perspectives* and *Ten Ideas That Changed the World* – developed by the school.

The Physics Department

The Physics department forms a key part of the Science and Technology faculty. There are seven full-time physicists in the department, who are well served by two very knowledgeable and helpful laboratory technicians. The department has six main laboratories, a staff resource area and a computer room all situated close to the preparation room on the ground floor of the Science and Computing block. All of the laboratories have been recently refurbished to a high standard. Each laboratory has its own interactive whiteboard, and other teaching aids. The department is well-equipped, with a large amount of laboratory apparatus and data-logging facilities, sufficient to carry out a

range of practical investigations.

Sevenoaks is virtually unique in the UK in that all 1050 students study at least one science for the entirety of their secondary education – three to Year 11 and at least one in the Sixth Form. Physics is taught throughout the school and all Middle School pupils follow a separate IGCSE Physics course. In the Sixth Form, pupils can study Physics at either Higher or Standard Level.

Throughout the school, emphasis is placed on experimental aspects of Physics and on the development of each pupil's conceptual understanding. The pupils undertake a variety of experimental work, in addition to computer simulations and demonstrations.

The IGCSE results have been excellent over the last few years, with the majority of pupils gaining A* and nearly all the others A grade. The results at IB are also very good with 80% gaining grade 6 or top grade 7 at Higher Level, and 75% at Standard Level achieving similar grades. Around 45 Year 11 pupils gain awards in the Physics Olympiad Challenge and the most able Higher Level students enjoy success at the Olympiad level. Typically 55 students study Higher Level Physics each year, of which around 35% go on to study Physics, Natural Sciences or Engineering at university.



Head of Physics

The successful candidate will be an enthusiastic, well-qualified graduate and a dynamic teacher and leader. Love of the subject and an ability to convey this to students is essential. In leading the work of the department, the Head of Physics will foster a strong team spirit, help to develop the skills of the teaching staff, and look to inspire the students. He or she will also be a good administrator, able to manage the day-to-day work of the department efficiently. The Head of Department is responsible for ensuring that the appropriate syllabuses are taught and that the necessary resources are available. As such, it is essential to keep in touch with the requirements and regulations for public examinations. The Head of Department will oversee the enrichment activities in Physics and take a lead in preparing students for university entry. He or she will be expected to chair departmental meetings on a regular basis, ensuring the co-ordination and implementation of departmental and school policies.

A commitment to excellent pastoral care and enriching co-curricular activities is also expected.

Information for applicants

Sevenoaks School has its own generous salary scale. Accommodation or relocation expenses may be available, and fee discounts for the

children of members of staff are available (subject to the usual entry requirements). Further information about the school can be found on our website: www.sevenoaksschool.org.

Applicants should complete the application form in full. Guidance for completion of the form is downloadable from our website. Note that Part 6 must show a complete history of employment, and should continue on a separate sheet of the application form if necessary. Please submit the completed application form, covering letter and CV by post to:

The Personnel Department
Sevenoaks School
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 1HU

Tel: 01732 467740; email: pa@sevenoaksschool.org.

Applications should be submitted **by midday on Wednesday 4 January**.

It is envisaged that interviews will take place in the week beginning Monday 9 January. The school retains the right to interview suitable applicants and appoint before the deadline.

The post holder has a responsibility to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young persons for whom he or she is responsible, or with whom he or she comes into contact, and will adhere to and ensure compliance with the



school's Child Protection Policy Statement at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post the post-holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the school, he or she must report any concerns to the school's Designated Child Protection Coordinator or to the Head.