**HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY**

**FROM SEPTEMBER 2018**

Wetherby Senior School was founded in 2015 and is a member of the Alpha Plus Group of Schools. There are currently around 225 boys between the ages of 11 and 16, spanning Year 7 to Year 11. The School’s size and reputation is growing rapidly and next year the second building will open only a short walk from the original building in Marylebone Village. Next year will also see the opening of our new Sixth Form Centre with purpose built accommodation for the boys.

At Wetherby Senior School we seek to employ highly professional teachers with the ability and commitment to enhance the life of this School and to work effectively and collaboratively with all members of the School community to further establish and develop the School. Our emphasis on educating the whole boy means that all members of staff, in due course, will be expected to contribute to the pastoral care of a group of students as a Form Tutor as well as contributing to the School’s co-curricular activities.

The School was founded to offer a progressive education in the heart of London. The School’s focus on providing an all-round education means that high standards are expected of the boys in all areas of school life. The School provides the boys with a broad educational experience, which includes Philosophy and Thinking Skills in the curriculum, to ensure that they are able to think critically and to problem solve but also to ensure they can be creative and collaborative in their approach, so that they develop a sense of social responsibility and respect for others. Our skilled staff, who have a wealth of experience, are preparing to send our pupils to leading universities in the UK, the US and elsewhere.

Our location in the heart of London will open up exciting opportunities for teaching Geography as the school has access to everything the City has to offer in terms of arts and culture, science and technology and business and commerce, giving our pupils the best preparation for adult life in an ever changing world.

The post represents an unusual and exciting opportunity to continue the development of a new department and establish the A Level course. Geography is a very popular GCSE option and there is strong interest for A Level. Most boys will also be taking the Extended Project Qualification alongside their A Levels, and all departments are expected to be involved in the delivery of this, including as EPQ supervisors and teachers of key study skills. As well as in the classroom, the Geography department is active in organising extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities. Teaching staff at Wetherby Senior School have experience of teaching in both the maintained and independent sectors and colleagues looking to move into independent education are warmly encouraged to apply. The role has become available following the promotion of the current Head of Geography to Head of Sixth Form from September 2018.

**The Geography Department**

At Wetherby Senior School, Geography is currently taught in specialist rooms by two subject specialists. In Years 7-9, boys have 2 lessons of 45 minutes. There are class sets of iPads as well as access to computer suites. Geography is popular option with 80% of boys opting to take GCSE. Fieldwork plays an integral role and so there are a variety of trips offered to complement schemes of work as well as regular non-compulsory trips abroad (Croatia & Slovenia 2016, Italy 2017, Greece 2018/19). Boys study a diverse curriculum which aims to tackle world issues as well as provide key skills. In Years 7 and 8 boys study a varied curriculum including ‘Pole to Pole’ which looks at the controversies surrounding Antarctica and ‘Redevelopment Catalysed by Sport’ which includes a fieldtrip to Stratford. This is peppered with the map skills needed at GCSE. In Year 9 boys face some of the world’s most pressing concerns including ‘Globalisation’ and ‘Development’ before starting the GCSE in the Spring Term. At GCSE we will follow the brand new AQA GCSE specification and intend to follow AQA A Level. As a new and independent school we are unconstrained by prior choices or the national curriculum and this is an exciting opportunity to set up courses using specialist knowledge and creativity.

As well as joining us on our wide range of trips abroad and in the UK. Wetherby boys can join Junior Geography Society and enter Junior and Senior Geography Essay prizes. We are also a member of the Royal Geographical Society and boys can attend organised Monday Night Lectures and lectures designed for schools.

**Job Specification**

In addition to the responsibility of a teacher, as a Head of Department, the successful applicant will be expected to:

1. **Responsibility for managing the Geography curriculum, including:**
   * Establishing and reviewing schemes of work and monitoring their use by staff.
   * Selecting the public examination syllabuses offered at Wetherby Senior School and liaising with the examination board about syllabuses, examinations and results.
   * Establishing effective methods of assessment of students’ work and analysing the results.
   * Fostering, by example, a spirit of academic enquiry within the department.
   * Keeping up-to-date with subject developments outside the School and bringing them to the attention of colleagues.
   * Providing appropriate, effective enrichment activities and opportunities for different age groups as part of the co-curricular programme.
2. **Responsibility for managing the staff in the department, including:**
   * Providing an effective induction programme for new members of the department.
   * Arranging for the observation of teaching as a matter of good practice and providing constructive feedback to the teacher concerned.
   * Managing the teaching and learning element of the annual Professional Performance Review of members of the department.
   * Ensuring that teachers in the department use the School’s rewards and sanctions effectively.
   * Providing support to members of the department in any matters involving behaviour management.
   * Delegating appropriate administrative tasks to create a sense of teamwork within the department and aid professional development.
   * Monitoring the quality of written academic reports on pupils by teachers in the department.
   * Ensuring that teachers are aware of pupils with learning, medical, social or other difficulties and providing appropriate support.
   * Managing relief teaching when members of the department are absent.
3. **Responsibility for managing the pupils being taught in the department, including:**
   * Fostering high standards of academic work.
   * Ensuring effective use of pupil tracking data.
   * Effective scrutiny of pupil work.
   * Advising students with options choices relevant to the subject and with university applications.
   * Developing links with university Geography departments.
4. **Responsibility for the administration of the department, including:**
   * Producing and reviewing the department handbook development plan and ensuring the department is ready for inspection.
   * Holding and recording the minutes of regular departmental meetings to exchange ideas, and inform and develop good practice.
   * Producing an annual report about the department for the Headmaster, including a detailed analysis of public examination results.
   * Allocating teaching space to staff and ensuring that pupils respect the fabric of the department.
   * Managing the departmental budget effectively.
   * Overseeing the purchase, issue, return of textbooks and the recharging of lost textbooks.
   * Maintaining a comprehensive, up-to-date departmental contribution to the external website and the VLE.
   * Ensuring that all members of the department are aware of the relevant Health & Safety practices as outlined in the School’s Health & Safety Policy.
   * Providing appropriate and effective enrichment activities for different age groups as part of the co-curricular programme.
   * Attendance at school meetings as required.

**Candidate Profile:**

Suitable candidates will have:

* 1. The ability to inspire others and lead by example.
  2. Have outstanding subject knowledge, academic qualifications and to be able to communicate their enthusiasm.
  3. Be able to deliver dynamic and effective lessons to the full ability range of pupils at the School.
  4. Some experience of successful management of or within an academic department.
  5. Highly effective communication skills for dealing with all members of the School community.
  6. A commitment to pastoral care and the welfare and safeguarding of pupils.
  7. Excellent inter-personal skills.
  8. Excellent administrative, organisational, and IT skills.

**Remuneration:**

The Alpha Plus Group has its own salary scale. The DfEs Pension Scheme is available to all staff with QTS.

***Wetherby Senior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.***

***Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including check with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).***

Please submit applications through the [Alpha Plus Portal](https://isw.changeworknow.co.uk/alphaplusgroup/vms/e/careers/positions/dBioQ-2IXitBThzl1SMYv3).

**Applications should reach the school no later than Monday 26th February at 9.00am and interviews will be held between 28th February and 5th March.**