



Gymnastics Coach (Peripatetic Part-Time)

Gymnastics Coach

The advertisement is as follows;

An exceptional opportunity for a passionate, dynamic and inspirational Gymnastics Coach to work with our Gymnastics Squad and Club at this vibrant and forward looking prep school.

All applications will be considered upon receipt.

Thomas's London Day Schools

Thomas's London Day Schools educates over 2000 children at four schools – Thomas's Battersea, Thomas's Clapham, Thomas's Fulham, and Thomas's Kensington, and in one kindergarten in Battersea.

It is our prime concern that children at Thomas's are happy. We provide for their education by giving each child dignity and self-esteem through a sense of achievement, be it academic, artistic, or sporting. The central belief is that all this and more can be achieved if we can be kind to one another

In these preparatory years we offer a broad curriculum covering a wide range of subjects and skills so that by the time they leave us our pupils will have begun to identify individual areas of talent. In a positive and stimulating environment we ensure that each child achieves the best academic results of which each child is capable.

Thomas's Clapham

a. The School and its facilities

The school occupies a site on Broomwood Road between Wandsworth and Clapham Commons. It is housed in a Grade II listed building which was built between 1904 and 1908 as the site for Clapham County Girls' School. Thomas's Clapham opened as a school for boys and girls in 1993 aged 4–13. There are currently 645 pupils on roll. Philip Ward took up post as Headmaster in September 2012. Before that he was the Headmaster of Feltonfleet, in Cobham, for twelve years.

The facilities at Clapham include a superb Drama studio and fully equipped theatre space, and separate Art, Pottery and Design Technology centre, which was built in 2001, and an impressive building housing the Reception classes. Exciting new outdoor play and learning areas have been created, as well as Mindfulness Place, an enchanting garden dedicated to the school's commitment to teaching Mindfulness.

The Masterplan for a significant refurbishment of the existing teaching areas and the provision of a new space for STEAM teaching is well developed. The Year 1 and 2 classrooms were completely refurbished during the summer of 2016. The Year 3, 4 and 5 classrooms underwent their own transformation during the summer of 2017, along with the IT room, and some areas of the Music Department. The recent and on-going investment in digital learning is significant and exciting.

Demand for places in the school is considerable, with most children arriving into the school in Reception. Around twenty girls and boys join the school in Year 7 from Thomas's Fulham. One class of children leave at 11+ for London day and boarding schools, the majority stay until Year 8, sitting 13+ exams for the London day schools, Common Entrance (92% A*-B in 2017) or Academic Scholarship. 54 academic and Co-curricular Scholarships were won in 2017. Approximately 80% leave for boarding schools at the end of Year 8.

b. The Clapham Way

The approach to teaching and learning (the Clapham Way) is exciting, progressive, and challenging. Change is eagerly embraced by colleagues and pupils who share a passion for learning and finding new and better ways of doing things. Creativity, thinking skills and instilling a thirst for independent learning are at the heart of our approach. Traditional and didactic teaching methods would feel alien at Thomas's Clapham, and standards and expectations are high. Continuous professional development is a strongly established culture within the school.

Academic standards are very high, but there is a strong and vibrant co-curricular programme with a strong emphasis on breadth. The school was recognised by Ofsted in February 2018 as Outstanding in each category.

c. Inspiring every child, and the future

Inspiring every child, the five year strategic development plan, was launched in September 2013. As well as its focus on development in a number of key areas, Inspiring every child promotes a values education based approach to inspiring learning, living and leading in every area of the school community.

One consequence of the strategic plan is that the PHSCE programme was replaced in September 2014 by a new whole school Inspiring Living course, focusing on well-being and healthy living. Another is that we are currently carrying out a complete review of our broad curriculum. Research and evidence based enquiry will help us to reshape and balance the curriculum to ensure a relevant C21 teaching and learning experience for every child in the future. We rolled out a revised curriculum in September 2016, characterised by enquiry based learning throughout the school, and the teaching of a character skills woven into every aspect of the curriculum which we call the 8C's. A commitment to teaching Growth Mindset has been very well received.

Gymnastics Clubs and Squads at Thomas's Clapham

Gymnastics at Thomas's Clapham has grown in popularity over the last few years and has become a big part of school life. Pupils have scheduled Gym lessons during the school day in PE lessons from Reception to Year 8 – these are taught by our full-time PE Department. Pupils also have the opportunity to participate in after school Gymnastics Clubs which are run by external coaches. There are two types of Gymnastics Clubs at Thomas's Clapham – an Open Club which is offered to all pupils who would like to do more Gymnastics, and our Squad which pupils are invited to join.

The Gymnastics Squad is a club registered with British Gymnastics and is affiliated with London Gymnastics. This allows the Squad to compete at London GFA Gymnastics competitions for Floor and Vault, as well as the Thomas's Interschool competitions. The level of the gymnasts in our Squad ranges from Level 1 up to Level 5 and the current age range of the Squad is from seven to thirteen.

Our Gym Squad and Gym Clubs run throughout the following times and we are looking to appoint a peripatetic Gymnastics Coach who can work at all or some of these sessions.

Hours: (Term Time Only)

Monday: 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Tuesday: 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Wednesday: 4.15pm – 5.15pm

Friday: 4.00pm – 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am – 12.00pm

You may be required to undertake additional hours on a Sunday when the Squad has a team entered for a competition.

Job specification – Gymnastics Coach

The successful candidate will be a qualified and outstanding teacher of Gymnastics.

a. Accountable

- To the PE Subject Leader

b. Responsible

- For providing coaching to the school's Gymnastics Clubs

c. Key areas of responsibility

- To teach Gymnastics to the squad and open gym clubs
- To plan and provide a stimulating, invigorating and motivating learning environment ensuring that the learning resources are well organised and accessible to staff and pupils

- To plan and resource interesting sessions that show infectious teaching, meeting all the needs of the pupils so that all groups make rapid progress.
- To be aware of the new developments and advances in the teaching and direction of Gymnastics and to take an active interest in professional development.
- To attend all meetings as directed, development sessions, and INSET.
- To take part in collaborative decision making about issues relating to Gymnastics, a full member of the staff common room.
- To take part in the school's CPD and INSET programme, and fully participate in monitoring and Performance Management, accepting that it will act as a vehicle for self-development.
- To ensure the best possible practice in all areas of Gymnastics.
- To play a full part in the life of the school.

d. Person specification

- A qualified Gymnastics coach.
- British Gymnastics qualification (minimum of level 2) and membership.
- Familiar with London Gymnastics/GFA competitions and the ability to put together and choreograph routines.
- A proven and superb teacher/coach who will build on the many strengths and successes of the Gymnastics Club.
- An imaginative and creative professional, and able to introduce new and varied ways of developing our provision for Gymnastics.
- A team player able to inspire passion for Gymnastics.
- An inspiring personality in and out of the classroom, and someone whose approach to teaching and learning is innovative and progressive, who makes learning fun, but who sets the highest standards, would enjoy working at Thomas's, Clapham.
- A sense of humour, adaptability, the capacity to inspire confidence in pupils, parents and colleagues, and a real love of teaching the young is paramount. A can do, will do attitude will identify the successful candidate, and the rewards for a dynamic and enterprising teacher will be significant.
- An ambitious colleague keen to make a name in the prep school world.

An understanding of our high expectations, a commitment to working very hard, and clear evidence that you are going to get fully involved in the life of this excellent school is paramount.

You need not have worked in a prep school before, but you do need to understand and have empathy with the ethos and spirit of prep schools and independent education.

General responsibilities for a Gym Coach at Thomas's Clapham

- To promote high quality teaching and learning, providing clear structures for training sessions which maintain pace, motivation and challenge.
- To set high expectations for pupil behavior, establishing and maintaining a good standard of discipline through well-focused teaching and positive, productive relationships.
- To plan effectively to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to meet their potential, taking account of the needs of every child.
- To develop open, easy and professional relationships with colleagues.
- To be ready and enthusiastically available to parents, displaying approachability and professionalism at all times.
- To attend staff meetings, School INSET, and attend professional courses to enhance teaching effectiveness and qualifications as required.
- To establish a safe environment that supports learning and where pupils feel secure and confident.
- To comply with Health and Safety requirements.
- To contribute to the rich and varied extra-curricular programme.
- To carry out other duties that may reasonably be required by the Headmaster.

Rate of Pay

This post offers an hourly rate of £25.00 Monday to Friday.

Saturday and Sundays are paid on our weekend session rate of:-

- £86 for up to 4 hours
- £129 for 4 hours or over

Payment is made following the submission of authorised claims.

This post offers a very exciting opportunity to work in one of the outstanding prep schools in the country.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

We are committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff to share this commitment and work in accordance with our child protection policies and procedures. All posts are subject to an enhanced DBS check.

The successful candidate will be expected to commit to the following;

Thomas's London Day Schools is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring check.

Applications

A brief letter of application (which includes details of the Gym Club and Squad sessions you are available to work), and a completed and signed application form, should be addressed to the Headmaster, Philip Ward, as soon as possible.

Details of the post and application forms are available on the Thomas's London Day School web site www.thomas-s.co.uk/Working-at-Clapham or you can email the Operations Manager, Mrs Viki Stanton – vstanton@thomas-s.co.uk.

All applications will be considered upon receipt.

Sarah Brockman and Viki Stanton
May 2018

This role falls within the category of regulated activity, therefore you will be required to have an enhanced DBS check and a barred list check. Should you receive any cautions or convictions whilst in our employment these must be reported immediately to your line manager. The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment and work in accordance with our child protection policies and procedures.

The post holder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom he/she is responsible, or with whom he/she comes into contact will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's policies 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/she must report any concerns to the school's Safeguarding Officer or Deputy.