

Sutton Grammar School - Teacher of Biology from September 2017

Sutton Grammar School is an 11-18 selective convertor academy. The boys follow a predominantly academic curriculum leading to GCSE and A-level examinations. It is a specialist science school. The last Ofsted inspection (December 2008) said the school was 'outstanding' overall and in every section. The report is available from the TES website or via the link from the school website.

The School was founded in 1899 to meet the growing aspirations of the town and the surrounding country area. The School was grant maintained from April 1992, then was a foundation school and converted to academy status in 2011 and is a member of a partnership of all the secondary academies in Sutton.

The main school buildings on the current site date from 1928 and we have significantly improved the facilities in the last decade. A major £3m new building was opened in 2015 and includes two art teaching studios and an adjacent digital art suite. Other recent new buildings include teaching blocks for humanities, technology and IT, library, CCF building, and music centre. The sports hall and modern language building and the conversion of the old gym into a drama and music studio were followed by a new kitchen and canteen. In 2012 we opened a new £1.8m wing for mathematics. Two extra science laboratories have been created in the main building to keep up with the growth in demand for science at A-level, the latest in 2016 with grants from the Wolfson Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation and our own PTA.

The school takes 135 boys into five forms in year 7 and there are approximately twelve applications for each place. There are 280 in the sixth form. The total school roll is currently 909 boys, which is small enough to provide a friendly, caring atmosphere, but large enough to support a successful sixth form with an appropriate choice of subjects at advanced level, providing an excellent basis for university entrance and professional careers. Although most of our sixth form come from our own year 11 it is possible to join the school for A-levels and from September 2016 this option will be available for girls as well as boys. Despite this growth, our small size remains a major strength.

Management of teaching and learning is organised into seven faculties (English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Languages, Applied Studies, Performance) with the Heads of Faculty forming the core of the Academic Board. There is a Pastoral Board comprising the three Heads of School, Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator, Head of School Improvement and the Head and Deputy. The two boards act in an advisory capacity to the Senior Leadership Team. With a very supportive governing body the school has been able to make significant progress on its development plans.

Sutton Grammar boys are of a high academic potential: bright, articulate, open - they are demanding but very rewarding to teach. They are given every opportunity to develop their talents both in and out of the classroom. The curriculum is broadly based, all boys following a common course to the end of Year 9. There is some choice in Years 10 and 11 leading to GCSE (approx 80% of all results are A* or A). Most boys stay into the Sixth Form, where all students are encouraged to take four subjects all the way through to A-level.

Examination results have been very good almost every year both in raw terms and on any measures of value added (although with an unfortunate dip in GCSE measures in summer 2016). In recent years an average of twelve boys a year have won places at Oxford and Cambridge colleges in a range of subjects, reflecting the high calibre of our best boys and the good quality of teaching in all faculties. Historically, the School has had a bias towards mathematics and science in the sixth form but, while these areas remain strong, there is a healthy balance of the strongest students across the whole range of the curriculum.

The core curriculum in the sixth form is enriched with schemes like Sports Leadership, Young Enterprise, and Pre-U Global Perspectives for all in the lower sixth. All students do extended projects at the end of the lower sixth. We also value the contribution of boys of all ages in sport, drama, music, Christian Union, Duke of Edinburgh, and other clubs and societies, and their success depends on the support of teaching staff to provide continuity and encouragement, although senior boys often take leading roles too. The school has a Combined Cadet Force unit that provides leadership and adventurous training opportunities (with some cadet places reserved for girls from our partner school, Nonsuch High School).

There are about sixty teachers at the School. The number of women teachers is growing including several in senior positions of responsibility, including the deputy headteacher and two of the seven heads of faculty.

We take an interest in the training of new teachers and provide placements in several subjects for the Sutton Training School Partnership. Currently the school provides the subject hub for biology.

The School enjoys a central location in Sutton, convenient for many public transport routes, the High Street and Sutton Central Library. We also have an excellent games field in Cheam with 27 acres of pitches and a pavilion. Nearly half the boys represent the School in the many sports played against other schools and this provides another avenue for enthusiastic staff.

There is good collaboration with the other Sutton schools.

The school website gives a good impression of the school and can be viewed at:
www.suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk

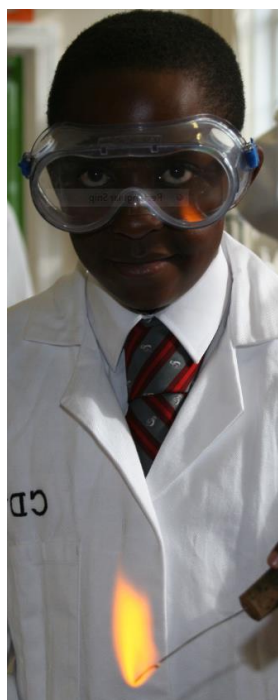


Further details of the post: Teacher of Biology

We are looking for an enthusiastic, qualified teacher of Biology to join this successful department within the Science Faculty as a full time teacher. The post is being created by the retirement of a part time member of the department and, to cope with growth in the demand for biology in the sixth form, we can offer a full time post. We would consider applications from teachers seeking a part-time post but we would need at least 0.75 FTE. There is high demand for all three sciences at A-level (around 40-60 in each science in each sixth form year). We would envisage the successful applicant teaching across the full age range within the school, with a significant A-level load and the opportunity to contribute to some of the many projects in the school (Science Big Bang, BIOSTEM project, Olympiad preparation, yr10/11 STEM projects, primary school outreach etc).

In the sixth form science students follow the Edexcel course for Biology (Chemistry =OCR, Physics = AQA). There is an emphasis on practical work in the sixth form for which the faculty is well resourced. In each of the sciences, sixth form students are split into several groups each year with each group being taught by two teachers. Across the sciences we expect to have 22 different A-level science classes (7 of them in biology) in September 2017.

The school has science specialist status and all teachers of maths and science are encouraged to contribute to the specialist school programmes and activities.



Each year a number of pupils enter science related competitions like the three Olympiads. All the sciences encourage, as far as possible, pupils to enrich their own learning. There have been numerous projects undertaken by students in each science and the school has a reputation footprint at events like the UK Science and Engineering Fair with numerous national prize winners in the last few years including Scientific American Prize of Innovation at the Google Fair 2016, Intel prize winner four years in the last four etc. This year we have students in each of the chemistry, physics and maths UK Olympiad training and selection squads. A group of sixth form chemists have been working with a chemist at UCL, designing and synthesising ionic liquids and investigating their properties. We were finalists in the Rolls Royce Science Prize 2014 and we hosted the first school based regional Big Bang Science, repeated again in 2016. These exciting things are part of the richness of working at Sutton Grammar School but the main priority within the job is to be a successful teacher oneself in the delivery of biology from year 7 to year 13. The UK (Intermediate) Scientist of the Year is a year 12 Sutton Grammar School boy for work undertaken in developing a new approach to breast cancer therapies.

Biology is a key subject for medical applicants. The Head of Biology very successfully supports applications to medical schools (Medical Society, medical work experience applications). The students publish a magazine called 'Life' which provided enrichment

opportunities for years 8-12. There are strong links with primary schools. The year 10/11 STEM project work in biology involves original genetic research using fruit flies.

There are numerous opportunities for staff to take part in other aspects of school life and it is our general expectations that colleagues would be keen to do so. However, candidates should note that our principal requirement for this post is for a keen teacher of biology, able to contribute further to the improvements of standards in the faculty, which are already very high.

We want the best available teacher for this role. You don't need lots of experience – we can develop teaching skills as part of a large team and we can deliver a full NQT support package for a teacher in his or her first year of teaching. We want, above all, a teacher who can enthuse students and will be a team player in a strong faculty.

The full time biologists are Paul Davis (Head of Science and Biology), Mr Richard Mundy and Mr Duncan McCausland. Mrs Win Booth (part-time) is retiring this summer. Other scientists are very flexible and can also teach biology if required (e.g. Dr Tim Bass – who is also the school's SENDCO). Each science subject has its own set of lab and subject technicians. There are two biology laboratories on the top floor with outside glasshouses and an open plan departmental space for biology teachers between the two labs. On the floor below there is another laboratory for main school biology teaching and some biology lessons also take place in the new (chemistry) laboratories on that floor.



The Science Faculty

The core of our success is the high standard of teaching and support from the staff.

The Science Faculty currently consists of thirteen specialist graduate teachers, with four technicians servicing the ten Science labs. There is also a STEM technician (who combines this role with some teaching too) within the Science Faculty whose main job is to support the large number of individual and group science projects and links with companies and universities.

Flexibility will be one of the qualities looked for in our new colleague, although sciences are taught all the way through the school as specialist disciplines so a timetable could be exclusively biology if that best suited the teacher and the requirements of the faculty as a whole.

Science is taught as the three separate disciplines throughout the school. At KS3 each class has four 45-minute periods of each Science per fortnight with class sizes of 27 in the lower school and 24 in the Upper School.

Currently at KS4 all pupils take the AQA courses in Biology and Physics and OCR Chemistry. The pupils start these in year 9. Pupils are allocated four 45-minute periods per Science per fortnight whilst in year 9 and six 45-minute periods per Science per fortnight in years 10 and 11. Pupils are taught in classes of 24. Science results are excellent in all sciences see the tables below for the most recent years.

A-Level Results in the Science Faculty 2014 to 2016.

Year	Subject	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total entries
2016	Biology	13	12	6	5	1	0	0	37
2015	Biology	10	20	13	4	2	2	0	51
2014	Biology	11	19	11	3	0	0	0	45
2016	Chemistry	10	18	17	4	2	0	0	51
2015	Chemistry	4	21	14	1	3	0	0	43
2014	Chemistry	6	14	17	11	3	1	0	52
2016	Physics	19	14	21	2	3	0	0	59
2015	Physics	18	15	15	5	3	3	1	60
2014	Physics	18	14	11	8	4	2	0	57

GCSE Results in the Science Faculty 2014 to 2016.

Year	Subject	A*	A	B	C	D	Total entries
2016	Biology	78	32	6	0	0	116
2015	Biology	53	49	17	1	0	120
2014	Biology	75	39	2	0	0	116
2016	Chemistry	57	43	11	4	0	115
2015	Chemistry	54	48	14	3	1	120
2014	Chemistry	66	40	9	1	0	116
2016	Physics	76	32	5	3	0	116
2015	Physics	80	30	9	1	0	120
2014	Physics	79	33	4	0	0	116

In the sixth form, students follow the Specification chosen by the Department of each Science. The emphasis in the sixth form is very much on practical work and developing analytical and observational skills. In September there will be twenty two sets of A-level science in the sixth form. Sixth form students are each taught by two teachers.

We enter lots of science related competitions and science, engineering and medicine are popular destinations for boys at university. I counted up the entries to university in 2016 and the following numbers were taking courses with biological content: medicine 12, biomedical science 5, biology 3, natural sciences 3, zoology 1, biochemistry 3,

pharmaceutical science 1, physiology 1 and sports science 1 – an impressive proportion of those taking A-level biology in 2016.

We have introduced STEM projects in Key Stage 4 in the last three year and nearly 80 of year 9 have asked to be part of a STEM project next year. In biology this has included teaching a course of lab skills and carrying our genetic studies using fruit flies.



Science Curriculum

The three Science subjects have developed courses that reflect the best features of curriculum development in science teaching. As far as possible, learning is centred on experimental work. Separate Sciences have been retained throughout the school. Every student has access to triple science GCSE taught by specialist staff for each of the three Sciences. There is the chance to contribute to other sciences, especially in KS3, and other contributions are also welcome – for example taking a scientific topic within the pre-U global perspectives course, or sport if you have the appropriate coaching qualifications.

Salary and Conditions

The posts will be remunerated on the Sutton Grammar School Main Scale or Upper Pay Range. These new scales were introduced in January 2015 and are slightly above the old Outer London pay scales for teachers to allow for the fact that pay progression based on performance management is considered each Autumn term and any pay rises applied from January. Inflationary pay rises have always been applied in September each year. The school participates in the Teachers' Superannuation Scheme. Candidates should note that all appointments are subject to references, satisfactory medical check and DBS clearance.

The school is a non-smoking establishment, and promotes healthy lifestyles amongst its staff and pupils. Staff make extensive use of the multi-gym equipment and sport for staff (e.g. badminton, spin class).

For an informal discussion with the Headmaster about any aspect of this post please contact Headmaster Gordon Ironside (E-mail: gironside@suttonmail.org or telephone 020 8642 3821 xtn 204) or the Head of Science, Paul Davis (E-mail: pdavis@suttonmail.org).

The easiest way to apply is to use the TES application form by clicking on the apply here button on the advert on the TES.com website which allows easy completion of much of your basic data. Completed application forms can also be downloaded from the school website which should be sent to the Headmaster, Mr Gordon Ironside, at the school address by 1st May 2017. Applications e-mailed to the address below will also be accepted. E-mailed applications can be signed at interview. If there are any problems with the application form I would be happy to receive a c.v. and letter of application as an alternative as long as all the points on the application form are addressed.

Address: Mr Gordon Ironside, Headmaster, Sutton Grammar School, Manor Lane, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4AS

tel: 020 8642 3821 fax: 020 8661 4500 E-mail: gironside@suttonmail.org
school website: www.suttongrammar.sutton.sch.uk

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COME AND TEACH THE 2017 UK (INTERMEDIATE) SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR

THE SCIENCE FACULTY IS A FINALIST IN THE TES SCIENCE DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR 2017