

Applications are invited for the post of



## HEAD OF HISTORY AND POLITICS

From September 2018

### THE POST AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

We are looking for a well-qualified and experienced History graduate to lead this thriving, popular and high-achieving department. The role also carries responsibility for Government and Politics A level and the ability to teach this would be a distinct advantage. A willingness to be involved in the extra-curricular and pastoral life of this busy and vibrant School is expected.

The successful candidate will possess excellent subject knowledge, be an effective teacher who uses a variety of teaching methods and be an efficient and organised manager who is able to lead an experienced team. They should be able to demonstrate a willingness to innovate and the ability to foster positive and supportive relationships with both students and staff in the department. They will be able to teach across the whole range of age and ability, including A-level and in support of entry to Oxbridge and other leading universities.

The post arises from the promotion of the current Head of History and Politics to a position on the senior management team of another school. The successful applicant will be expected to maintain the standards of excellence that already exist in the department whilst also continuing to lead the development of the department.

### THE HISTORY AND POLITICS DEPARTMENT

The History and Politics department enjoys an enviable reputation for academic success and is well respected for the scholarship, enthusiasm and commitment of its teaching staff. There are currently five full-time members of the department, several of whom hold positions of responsibility outside the department. The department is thriving, with the subjects being very popular at GCSE and A-Level. The department is housed in a well-equipped suite of teaching rooms, is well resourced, and enjoys the benefits of a departmental office.

The department seeks to encourage and serve the entire ability range at King Edward's. We aim to develop knowledge and historical skills in each student through a variety of teaching methods, whilst still pursuing academic achievement for all. Enjoyment of the subject is a key aim. Students are encouraged to explore and discuss their own ideas and our teaching styles reflect this. We are significant users of IT within the School.

History is a popular subject at King Edward's, as indicated by the number of students continuing with the subject, which is only compulsory until the end of Year 9. The National Curriculum is broadly followed at Key Stage 3, during which time the students are taught in their form groups. Each class in Years 7 to 9 have three lessons per fortnight of 1 hour. The curriculum covers the Medieval era in Year 7 from the Norman Conquest until the end of the reign of Henry VII. The course is thematic in approach, looking at concepts through key events. During Year 8 the pupils study the Reformation and Elizabethan era, and the Civil War. Whilst more chronological in approach, the themes introduced in Year 7 are explored further. Year 9 examines the modern

era, focusing on World Wars One and Two, Weimar and Nazi Germany, the Holocaust, and the growth of democracy throughout the Twentieth Century.

### **GCSE**

About 50 students (about half of each year group) take History in each of Years 10 and 11, making History a popular option at GCSE. At GCSE there are 5 lessons per fortnight and currently three teaching groups in Year 10 and three in Year 11. Results are strong, with most students achieving A or A\* grades. We follow the Cambridge iGCSE syllabus, which focuses on International Relations 1919-2000, with a depth study on Russia, 1905-41.

### **AS and A-Level History**

There are currently 40 students taking History in the Sixth Form. Group sizes depend upon the subject combinations chosen and range from 2 to 12. From 2015 we introduced the Edexcel specification for A Level. The late course (Route G of the specification) comprises units on Germany 1918-89, the rise and fall of Fascism in Italy, c1911–46, and Britain: Losing and gaining an Empire, 1763-1914. Coursework comprises 20% of the final A Level and enables students to hone in on an area of historical debate. In this unit, students will focus upon interpretations of the causes of the Holocaust.

Year 12 have 9 lessons each fortnight (of 1 hour) and Year 13, ten lessons. The teaching of the syllabus is split between two teachers, each covering one AS and one A2 module. At AS we do attract some students who pursue History as a fourth subject, but we aim to keep over half of those taking History at GCSE. Most continue to A2 and for many years we have achieved very good results with 75% of students achieving an A\* or A at A2 History last year, and 100% achieving A\*- B. Many of the Year 13 students each year go on to undertake History or Politics related courses at university.

### **AS and A-Level Politics**

There are currently 18 students taking Politics, with one set in each of Years 12 and 13. Lesson allocation for AS and A2 is as it is for History. Last year 80% achieved A\*-B and 100% of students achieved A\*- C at A2. Students can, and do, take both History and Politics at A-Level.

We currently teach the AQA syllabus for Politics, focusing on British and United States government and politics. The syllabus covers structures of government, voting behaviour, the various layers of government as well as extra-governmental agencies and groups. The AS syllabus deals exclusively with the United Kingdom, whilst the A2 syllabus covers the United States.

### **Extra-curricular**

Members of the department run or are involved in several extra-curricular clubs. We have a highly successful and very popular Model United Nations group for Year 11 and above who have won titles at local and national conferences. There is also a History Society for Years 7-13 and an extra-curricular Amnesty International club. Members of the department also contribute to Think Tank – a forum for Years 12 and 13 to debate a wide range of historical, political and philosophical issues to develop their understanding beyond the syllabus. Members of the department are keen to continue to challenge and stimulate students.

## THE SCHOOL AND BATH

King Edward's School was originally founded in 1552. It is a highly successful academic School with an impressive record in public examinations ensuring that, at both GCSE and A-Level, it is in the top cohort of schools in the country. In 2017 86.3% of results at A-level were graded A\* to B. 26.3% of all results were an A\*, placing us 49<sup>th</sup> in the national league table published in The Times in August. 42.5% of the pupils in Year 13 gained at least one A\* grade and 43.4% of pupils gained only A\* or A grades. At GCSE, 96% of grades were A\*-B and 55.8% were A\*. We do a mixture of IGCSE and GCSE exams, with the core subjects of Mathematics, English, Science and Modern Foreign Languages being IGCSE. 54.8% of pupils in Year 11 gained only A\*/A grades and we were placed 50<sup>th</sup> in the league tables in The Daily Telegraph. Almost all Year 13 pupils transfer to university (around a quarter to a third choosing to take a gap year), many to the Russell Group universities and a significant number each year to Oxford and Cambridge.

The School is a member of HMC and has traditionally educated pupils from a wide variety of backgrounds, formerly benefiting from the Direct Grant and Assisted Places Schemes. Most pupils are now full-fee paying (fees are currently around £13,500 per annum in the Senior School) but up to 20% benefit from bursaries, academic scholarships, or special talent awards (for music, art, drama and sport). Around half of the pupils in the Senior School live in Bath itself, but the remainder travel in from the more rural parts of North Somerset and West Wiltshire and from the towns of Chippenham and Trowbridge, which have seen significant housing development in recent years. Some come from as far as Swindon and Warminster.

The strength of the School undoubtedly lies in the consistently high academic results achieved each year and it has an enviable reputation both locally and nationally. However, the School is not 'narrowly' academic; it aims to provide a breadth and range of opportunities to allow pupils to develop their interests and enthusiasms in a rounded way, supported in all areas by excellent pastoral care. Sport, music, drama, community service, and other clubs and societies all flourish at the School and Staff contribute a great deal outside their specialist academic areas to this wider extra-curricular life, allowing pupils to thrive on the rich variety of opportunities on offer. Each year pupils compete or participate in music and sport at national level, both as individuals or as school groups, indeed, in 2012 two existing pupils competed in the London Olympics. Our drama productions are hugely popular and the Drama Department's work is used as an exemplar by the examination board.

The School is made up of a 'family' of three Schools, a Pre-Prep (3-7), Junior (7-11) and Senior School. It enjoys a large 14 acre site on the south-eastern side of Bath, with playing fields about a mile away at Bathampton. The centre of Bath, a World Heritage city, is within walking distance, and the School profits greatly from its proximity to a thriving and culturally vibrant city, with museums, art galleries, music and literacy festivals on its doorstep. Bristol is within reach, and access to both London and the West Country is relatively easy.

## SALARY

Salaries at the School are based on our own KES Salary Scale and will take into account the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate. The KES Salary Scale is enhanced above the National State Qualified Teachers' Scale.

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All staff are in a position of trust and have a duty to keep children and young people safe and to protect them from neglect and physical and emotional harm. This duty is in part exercised through the development of respectful caring and professional relationships between staff, children, and young people. Staff are expected to be familiar with the local child protection

arrangements and understand their responsibilities in order to safeguard and protect children and young people.

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Applications should be made in writing, using the supplied application form **and** with a letter of application outlining the applicant's suitability for the post, including their pastoral and extra-curricular experience.

These should be received by **noon** on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and should be sent to:

**Mr M Boden, Headmaster,**  
*King Edward's School, North Road*  
*BATH BA2 6HU*

Telephone: 01225 820326 (Direct line for Headmaster's PA)

e-mail: [kesadmin@kesbath.com](mailto:kesadmin@kesbath.com)

Please note that we are unable to give feedback to applicants not invited for interview.