



Teacher of Computing

Required for **January or April 2018**

Teacher of Computing

The advertisement in the TES, and on the Thomas's web site, is as follows;

An exciting opportunity for an inspiring, creative and innovative teacher of Computing to join our dynamic Digital Technology team. This is a new role and will include teaching Computing from Reception to Year 3, and collaborating with other colleagues to integrate Computing, Digital Making, and STEAM up to Year 8.

Closing date: **Monday 20th November at 9.00am**

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 two kindergartens, in Battersea and Pimlico.

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 newly built in 2001, and an impressive building housing the Reception classes, which was built six years ago. 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 April 2011 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.

Digital Technology at Thomas's Clapham

a. Ambition and aspiration

There has been a substantial commitment to the development and investment in Digital Technology since 2014, and this is set to continue. The future is very exciting, and to support this ambition we need an additional specialist to help us realise our vision for embedding Computing, Digital Making and STEAM throughout our curriculum.

Our aim is to inspire all children at Thomas's Clapham to become creative and confident users of technology, as well as to give them a deep understanding of how computers work and how we can program them. We want all children to develop the skills and confidence to select and experiment with digital tools to solve problems and craft beautiful work. Children at Thomas's Clapham love Computing lessons, and many enjoy working on digital projects in their free time. The appointment of an additional and first-class Computing teacher is central to our commitment to providing exceptional provision for Digital Technology at Thomas's Clapham.

b. The Digital Technology Team

The successful candidate will be a part of the Digital Technology team, which is led by the Director of Digital Technology, Faye Ellis. They will work closely with our Computing Subject Leader, Nikki Cossey, who also teaches Computing to Key Stages 2 and 3.

c. The Learning Environment

If you join us you will be supported by a leading edge learning environment. We are extremely well resourced, with access to 3D printers, a laser cutter, electronics resources, filmmaking equipment, shared iPads and laptops, an iMac suite and a range of programmable devices and robots. We use Firefly as a learning platform for children and teachers to collaborate and share progress, and use Google Apps for Education from Years 3-8.

d. STEAM Teaching

Last year, Thomas's Clapham held its second STEAM Week, which included a range of workshops, pop-up activities and trips aimed at inspiring children to create and invent using cross-disciplinary skills in the STEAM subjects. Since then, a number of STEAM projects have been embedded in the curriculum and we have opened up more opportunities for children to work on STEAM projects, including a Mini Inventors Club and separate STEAM lessons for Year 6 children. It is anticipated that the successful candidate would also be involved in planning and teaching STEAM Week and the Year 6 STEAM curriculum, in collaboration with other teachers.

e. Research and development

The Teacher of Computing will be expected to collaborate with other teachers and Subject Leaders across the school, and will work particularly closely with our Art and DT Department, who have been leading the development of digital Design Technology over the past year. We are also particularly interested in embedding technology in other subjects; for example, 3D modelling and printing objects in History, or building Raspberry Pi weather stations in Geography. The role will also involve facilitating access to resources during break times so children have more opportunities to create with technology.

The successful candidate will also assist the Director of Digital Technology in trialling and evaluating new technologies (such as virtual reality) and exploring future technologies with the children, including robotics and artificial intelligence. This may involve research, attendance at workshops and conferences, and collaboration with artists, designers and other practitioners.

Job specification – Teacher of Computing

The successful candidate will be a qualified and outstanding graduate and teacher of Computer Science or similar discipline.

a. Accountable

- To the Director of Digital Technology

b. Responsible

- For planning and teaching Computing from Reception to Year 3.
- For collaborating with other members of the team to integrate Computing, Digital Making, and STEAM throughout the school.

c. Key areas of responsibility

- To promote high quality teaching and learning.
- 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, embracing pupils work through our learning platform, display and in the general atmosphere created in the classroom.
- To plan and resource interesting lessons that show infectious teaching, meeting all the needs of the pupils so that all groups make rapid progress.
- To use Assessment For Learning strategies within teaching.
- To use data and assessment information about pupils to track progress and set targets.
- To work alongside the Director of Digital Technology and the Computing Subject Leader to collaborate on the development of a creative, innovative and challenging scheme of work for Computing
- To teach Lower School and Year 3 Computing lessons (16 lessons per week)
- To teach Reception Creative Carousel (3 lessons per week)
- To collaborate on and team teach Year 6 STEAM lessons (4 lessons per week)
- To provide meaningful feedback to parents about children's progress in Computing, through parents' evenings and reports
- To develop open, easy and professional relationships with parents and colleagues

- To maintain Computing resources
- To work alongside the Director of Digital Technologies and the Computing Subject Leader to embed Computing, STEAM and Digital Making projects into our enquiry-based curriculum
- To research and evaluate new technologies that could be used to enhance teaching and learning across the curriculum, including virtual reality, robotics, 3D printing and electronics
- To provide extra-curricular opportunities for children to improve their skills in Digital Making (inspired by NESTA Young Digital Makers report <http://www.nesta.org.uk/publications/young-digital-makers>)
- To undertake supervisory duties, attend assemblies and school lunch
- 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 remain up to date in current curriculum development and professional practice by regular attendance at courses
- To play a full part in the life of the School, including attendance at INSET, Prize Giving events, parent teacher meetings, and any other school occasions and events as required by the Headmaster
- To comply with Health and Safety requirements

d. Person specification

- A proven, superb and qualified teacher of Computing who will build on the many strengths and successes of the Computing and Digital Technology team
- An imaginative and creative professional, and able to introduce new and varied ways of developing our provision for Computing
- A genuine love of Computing and digital technology and a passion for learning about the latest developments in the area

- A team player able to inspire passion for Computing in every area of the school
- Committed to the busy and enriching ethos of the school
- 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

We would be delighted to welcome applications from colleagues currently working in the maintained sector. However, understanding 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. You need to be in full sympathy with all that we are about.

Other areas of School life

All teachers appointed to Thomas's Clapham are expected to contribute fully to the extra-curricular and pastoral life of the School.

Pastoral care is a strong feature of life at the school, and all teachers are expected to share in this responsibility, probably as a Form Teacher or as a Tutor.

The wider life of the school - The School expects its teachers to contribute wholeheartedly to other aspects of school life by drawing upon their own interests and enthusiasms. The richness of the school depends upon teachers who, for example, coach games, support and organise clubs and society meetings, or take children on trips and residential expeditions.

Salary and support

A competitive salary and conditions are offered.

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

Safeguarding and Child Protection

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, and a completed and signed application form, should be addressed to the Headmaster, Philip Ward, as soon as possible.

The Headmaster would be delighted to talk on the phone to any candidate who would like to know more about the post. He can be contacted either at the School by phone (020 7326 9301) or by email - pward@thomas-s.co.uk

Details of the post and application forms are available from Miss Viki Stanton on 020 7326 9300 or email vstanton@thomas-s.co.uk.

Interviews will take place on **Wednesday 22nd November**.

PC Ward
November 2017

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.