



TEACHER OF JAPANESE

Part-Time, Fixed-Term Contract

February - June 2017

The Faculty

The Whitgift Languages Faculty is one of the largest and most vibrant language faculties in the UK with thirty-one teachers, eight assistants and a faculty administrator. Several classrooms on one of the main corridors of the school are dedicated as language teaching rooms and our comfortable offices, a thirty-station language laboratory, 5 assistant rooms and a dedicated Sixth Form computer room are all on a perpendicular corridor enabling that part of the school to have a genuinely international and excitingly language-focused atmosphere.

Japanese, Spanish, German, French, Mandarin Chinese and Latin are taught from Year 7 throughout the school with Classical Greek available from Year 9. All of these languages are offered as IGCSE, A Level and IB options. Seven Heads of Department work together under the Head of Faculty: Classics, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish.

Our Year 7 options are unique in that all pupils study three very different languages. They must choose one Oriental language (Japanese or Chinese), one Romance language (French or Spanish) and one inflected language (German or Latin). From Year 8 they continue with two of those three languages and are encouraged to take both as IGCSE options although they may in some cases be allowed to take only one language at IGCSE.

The Faculty prides itself on the range and quality of its exchanges and trips. All are organised in-house with the assistance of our Faculty Administrator. These include long-standing exchanges to Tokyo, Albertville, Caen, Munich, Valencia, Salzgitter, Vicenza, Zaragoza, Nuremberg, Toledo and Beijing as well as trips to such cities as Dresden, Biarritz, Granada, Florence, Berlin, Shanghai and Paris.

We have a very international intake and pride ourselves on tailoring language provision to the diverse needs of our pupils. We therefore have a large number of pupils who are supported in their language-learning off-timetable. We encourage pupils in their learning of all languages, even those which we do not teach, and aim to support them in formal accreditation of their skills wherever possible. Around a hundred pupils board at Whitgift, around two-thirds of whom come from abroad, which gives us the opportunity to encounter unusual languages and also to teach languages at an unusually high level - we offer all our languages as Language A (native speaker) within the IB for example.

The Faculty is energetic, young, forward-thinking and happy. Textbook usage is minimal and a focus is placed on developing innovative, imaginative teaching strategies which challenge and stimulate our pupils. Flexibility, passion, academic rigour and the ability to inspire are amongst the key words which would characterise our ethos. We encourage a plethora of teaching styles and enjoy learning from one another. Strong emphasis is placed on the teaching of grammar, on encouraging pupil use of target language and adapting to the needs of individual pupils.

The Japanese Department

The Japanese Department comprises 3 full time teachers, a part-time tutor and a language assistant. It has a very strong reputation within the School and beyond with a record of outstanding GCSE results and a long tradition of sending pupils to university to pursue Oriental Studies degrees. We have a very successful partnership with Urawa High School in Saitama, receiving long-term exchange students into our boarding house and also taking around 30 pupils for a ten-day exchange every other year. Japanese is available on the timetable from Year 7 to Year 13. Pupils sit the Edexcel GCSE in Year 11 and then either pursue it as an A Level or IB option.

Japanese is one of several languages available and is not one of the naturally most popular options (these currently seem to be Spanish and Mandarin). All Japanese teachers are expected to contribute to marketing the language within the school by teaching stimulating, challenging lessons and through the creation of displays and organisation of exciting cultural opportunities.

Current vacancy

We are seeking to recruit an academically rigorous, dynamic, creative and flexible Teacher of Japanese, part-time (0.6 over 7 days in a fortnight) from February until June 2017. The successful applicant will be able to teach Japanese up to GCSE. We are not necessarily looking for an experienced teacher. The role would be equally well-suited to someone looking for their first teaching position. Flexibility, good humour and a willingness to be involved in all areas of school life are among the key qualities we are looking for. Experience of a second language would be an advantage but is not essential.

Contact

Please feel free to contact Mr Josh Ma on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail jma@whitgift.co.uk should you have any questions regarding the Faculty or this position.

Conditions of service

The salary will be on the Whitgift Foundation scale (substantially above national scale) according to qualifications and experience. Accommodation may be available. Assistance is offered towards removal expenses etc., up to £1,000 in total.

All staff are required to make a significant contribution to the co-curricular life of the School and this is reflected in the salary offered. A strong commitment to the pastoral and house system is also anticipated.

As a result of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, employers now have to verify that new recruits who are not British Nationals are eligible to work in this country. Therefore, any such shortlisted candidate will be asked to bring original documents verifying ID, right to work in the UK and a proof of address document with them at interview. Candidates will also be asked to bring original qualification certificates, memberships and relevant course attendance certificates as detailed on their application form.

Whitgift School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service.

Candidates for this post should apply via our website at www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies.

Closing date for applications: Please apply as soon as possible.