**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT WITH PHYSICS SPECIALSIM – FOR SEPTEMBER 2018**

The following brief details are provided to give applicants information about the school and some indication of the scope of the post. We recommend that you also look at our website.

**Oxford High School**

Oxford High School is one of twenty-five schools administered by the Girls’ Day School Trust (GDST). The school was founded in 1875 and moved to its present site in 1957. The GDST has its own bursary and scholarship scheme.

The school has enjoyed a national reputation throughout its long history. Academic standards and results are exceptional. In 2017, across all results, 40% of entries at A level were Grade A\*, 73% of entries were Grade A\*/A, with 10% of the year group gaining a place to study medicine. A wide-range of subjects including Engineering and Natural sciences are successfully achieved. In 2017, over 75% of grades were A\*, the highest recorded A\*s at GCSE that Oxford High has ever achieved. More than half the year group achieved at least 9 grade A\*, with 94% gaining A\*/A grades.

We are justifiably proud of the school’s academic achievements but equal emphasis is placed on participation in the performing arts, sport, charity and community work, and the development of social and leadership skills.

Oxford High School is located on three sites. There are approximately 870 pupils in the school which accepts girls aged 4 – 18 years. The Junior School is to be found on two sites; at 90 Woodstock Road and 1 Bardwell Road. There are approximately 300 children in the Junior School. The Senior School is at Belbroughton Road where approximately 570 girls (including 160 in the sixth form) aged 11 - 18, are educated. The school has its own admissions procedures.

Junior girls generally transfer to the Senior School for the next phase of their education at Oxford High School. All girls are entered for GCSE, AS and A2 level examinations. In addition many apply to Oxford and Cambridge Universities and around a quarter take up places. 100% of sixth formers go to university, generally the leading institutions, in the UK and in the USA.

Facilities on all three sites are excellent and resources are extensive. There is an indoor swimming pool at the Senior School, which provides swimming for the whole school and dedicated specialist areas, which are well resourced, attractive and well-maintained. Since July 2009 the Senior School has undergone a major £9 million building programme to provide: School Hall, Dining Hall, Library, Drama Studio, Admin Centre, Lecture Theatre, Modern Languages Centre.

We provide excellent backup for all new staff with full induction and support. Our three staff common rooms are very friendly and welcoming.

Applicants are urged to familiarise themselves further by viewing our website <http://oxfordhigh.gdst.net/> to obtain a sense of the atmosphere of the school and the huge range of activities, events etc.

**Science at Oxford High**

The study of science at Oxford High School has a long tradition originating with our founding purpose over 140 years ago. We continue this legacy today by offering a pioneering scientific education that is challenging, rigorous and, always, great fun.

The Science Department contains two Physics, two Chemistry, two Biology as well as two General Science laboratories. The teaching staff consists of six full time and four part time teachers as well as four full time technicians. All the laboratories are fully equipped with one having been very recently refurbished. The department also has access to its own set of laptops, Chrome books and a small IT suite (The Wolfson Room).

The Junior Science Curriculum (Years 6 –8) has been extensively re-written with a major focus on investigative practical work. Students are encouraged to test their own theories and learn from their methods, to improve their understanding of the scientific method and promote a culture of exploration and risk-taking, embedded in the curriculum core. Most end of topic tests and end of year exams focus on an investigative practical activity and application-style questions.

Students start their GCSE course at the beginning of Year 9. At the end of year 9 pupils are given the option of taking either the Edexcel iGCSE Triple or Double Science award; last year was the first cohort able to make this choice. The most recent 3-year average set of results shows that the students achieved 76% A\*, 17% A, 5% B and 2% C. The exam results in 2017 were outstanding and the best ever by some margin, with 81.4% achieving A\*, and 94.8% A\*/A grade. This was the last cohort to sit compulsory Double Award science hence exciting times are ahead with the new 9-1 system and a range of students now taking either Triple science or Double Award science.

Both Physics and Chemistry follow AQA courses at A-level whilst Biology follows OCR. Uptake at A-level is very high; both Biology and Chemistry departments have 3 groups running in both Year 12 and Year 13. There is usually one Physics group both in Year 12 and Year 13 with good numbers in each. In 2017, A level results were superb across the school and in Science. Across all 3 departments 36 students achieved A\*/A (66%), with huge successes achieved by all students regardless of grade. We have large numbers of students each year moving on to read Natural Sciences, Medicine, Engineering, Biochemistry and other science related courses at highly rated Universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

There is an extensive outreach programme in Science; the department has strong links with local state primary schools. There is a yearly outreach summer school and OHS students of all years are involved in GEM and STEM mentoring activities.

The department enjoys involving students in a wide variety of visits and competitions, both in and out of school; the students sign up in large numbers and welcome challenges outside their comfort zone. Many of them are very successful. Recent competitions include the all three subject Olympiads (several Gold and Silver awards were achieved), the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, and a variety of small group Salters and STEM competitions across the county, with enrichment trips to CERN, held every other year. Within the school’s extracurricular provision the Science department features prominently. Clubs vary from term to term and year to year, but frequently on offer are Ecology club, Science club, Engineering club, Silver CREST award, Gardening club, and departments welcome high-profile speakers from Oxford and beyond. Two of our most successful ventures are the STEM Society and Biomed Society, in which Sixth Formers set up and run a programme of exceptional visiting speakers.

This is a highly successful department which offers many opportunities to both teachers and students alike. We pride ourselves on our love of science and the wish to inspire future generations through innovative teaching and enriching activities, both within and outside the classroom.