



Teacher of Religion and Philosophy

Information Pack

Completed applications should be emailed to recruitment@mgs.org

Closing date: 09:00 on Tuesday 20 February 2018

Teacher of Religion and Philosophy

We are seeking to appoint, from 1 September 2018, an outstanding individual to join our Religion and Philosophy department. The vacancy arises following the promotion of Andrew Brower Latz to the position of head of department.

Religion and Philosophy at MGS

The Religion and Philosophy department is highly regarded by pupils, staff and parents. We emphasise the academic nature of the subject, and strive to make the subject interesting, challenging and fun.

There are currently six full-time and two part-time staff, all of whom are specialists in Religious Studies, Theology or Philosophy. Religious Studies is taught throughout the School and is offered at IGCSE and A-level. In addition, all Year 12 pupils study our innovative 'Perspectives' course, with several colleagues from other departments assisting with the teaching of this course. This is a pupil-led discussion course that is aimed at widening pupils' knowledge and in guiding them to become more articulate and critically aware. MGS runs a significant and valued programme of PSHE, and the Head of PSHE is a member of the Religion and Philosophy Department.

MGS is a multi-cultural and multi-religious school, and the teaching in the department reflects this. In Years 7 and 8 we teach aspects of the six major world religions. This course is currently being developed to include philosophical topics such as personal identity, miracles and life after death. The Year 9 course consists of a study of Ethics and Philosophy of Religion. Ethics in the first half of the year discusses topics such as moral reasoning, punishment, war, medical ethics and financial ethics. In the second half of the year, Philosophy of Religion covers the nature of God, arguments for and against the existence of God, the Problem of Evil and an exploration of the nature of knowledge, faith and belief. In Year 10, pupils who choose to continue with RS currently study for the Edexcel IGCSE. In Year 10, they choose from Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism, and in Year 11 they study Philosophy and moral issues. We currently have four IGCSE sets in Year 10 and four in Year 11. Last year, over 95% of boys achieved an A or A* grade in the subject.

Pupils who choose A-level Religious Studies follow the OCR Specification, focusing on Philosophy of Religion, Developments in Christian Thought and Ethics. At present, over 50 pupils are studying for A-level RS. It is rare for any pupil to achieve less than a B grade.

Members of the department also contribute to the Sixth Form options programme, delivering courses to pupils who are interested in developing their knowledge of Philosophy or Ethics, as well as contributing to the preparation of pupils applying for medical degree courses.

Every year, several pupils are accepted to read Theology, Religious Studies or Philosophy at top-flight universities. We have a consistently good record of Oxbridge success, and maintain strong links with several Oxford and Cambridge colleges and Theology, RS and Philosophy departments at leading universities.

Our co-curriculum

The co-curriculum is central to the ethos of MGS. Life outside the classroom is extraordinarily vibrant, both in terms of its diversity and quantity, and is a source of great enjoyment and challenge for our pupils and staff alike. It includes a vast amount and range of sport, music, drama, adventure, service and intellectual activities.

The School values the passion and commitment of its teachers in sharing their interests and enthusiasms with pupils outside of the classroom and seeks to enable staff to play to their passions whenever possible. Staff are given great autonomy over the activities they organise, and our pupils are given equal freedom to develop passions of their own.

We have lunchtime clubs and societies (many run by pupils) covering every possible area of intellectual interest. We have 24 musical groups with 280 participants, and typically stage a dozen drama productions each year, in our superbly equipped theatre and drama studios. We have 95 sports teams and 40 different sports. In outdoor pursuits every year we have numerous treks in the UK and overseas, as well as four camps involving 250 pupils. We offer a wide range of outdoor pursuits and are one of the largest centres for D of E in the North West. Alongside this there is a vast range of educational trips and visits, both in the UK and abroad. On average, each pupil spends twelve days a year on trips.

Visit our website to find out more.

Our facilities

Recent developments have included the purchase of a new Steinway Model D grand piano for the Memorial Hall. There is also a new sports hall, major upgrades to our multi-gym, swimming pool and sports pitches, and a new, exceptionally equipped theatre and drama studios.

Manchester and the North-West

Manchester is a vibrant and exciting place, as you would fully expect of Britain's second city. One of the fastest growing cities in Europe, it has a cosmopolitan outlook, a flourishing, varied cultural life and excellent restaurants and nightlife. It is a wonderful, stimulating place to live, with outstanding sport and leisure facilities, catering for every possible interest.

Theatre is vibrant and diverse, with venues including the innovative Royal Exchange, Home, The Lowry (in Salford Quays), Palace Theatre and Opera House. The Bridgewater Hall is an international centre of musical excellence and home to three major orchestras, whilst the Manchester Evening News Arena, the Apollo and many smaller venues contribute to the diverse range of music on offer in the city.

Befitting a city with such rich history and traditions, Manchester has excellent galleries and museums, and is, of course, a major centre for soccer, cricket, cycling and many other sports. Media City in Salford (adjacent to Manchester) is one of the country's most important centres for television and radio production, and is growing all the time.

Whilst offering all that you would expect from a major city, Manchester has the advantage of being very accessible and enjoys excellent transport links. London is only two hours away by train and Manchester's international airport is only five miles from the School. Areas of outstanding natural beauty are close by. The Peak District National Park, the Pennine Way and the Cheshire Plain are within an hour's drive, whilst the Lake District and Snowdonia are within two hours.

There is a wide choice of places to live, with ample rented accommodation. Property prices compare very favourably with those elsewhere in the country. Many staff live in the South Manchester suburbs, but others live surrounded by the Pennine moors or the Derbyshire hills. There is an excellent choice of schools, both private and maintained, at all levels.

For more information about the city, visit www.visitmanchester.com.

How to apply

Candidates of any age and any level of experience are invited to apply. Appropriate induction and support will be given.

Further information about the School is available on our website.

Applicants should complete an application form: this can be downloaded from the vacancies section of the School's website, and emailed to recruitment@mgs.org. The closing date is 9.00am on Tuesday 20 February, and we expect to hold interviews shortly afterwards.

The Manchester Grammar School is an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from all sections of the community. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and successful applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Our Safer Recruitment policy may be viewed on our website (click on 'our policies' at the bottom of the homepage).

We would like to thank all applicants for their interest in the School and for taking the time to apply. However, please note that, because of the high volume of applications we receive, we regret that we are unable to reply individually to each application. Applicants who have not heard from us by 27 February should assume that they have not been shortlisted for interview.

February 2018