

HEAD OF MATHEMATICS



'Tatler Public School of the Year'

Information for Candidates



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Introduction from Jenny Dwyer, Headmistress

Working at Sherborne Girls is an exciting opportunity. As a full boarding school we are able to offer a varied and creative academic curriculum supported by a full co-curricular programme. We place a great deal of importance on appointing the right staff, and we look for those who are able to make a genuine difference to the lives of our students. We are fortunate to be able to attract a high calibre of staff to our wonderful school. We really value the contribution made by all our teachers and support staff and in turn we offer a full programme of continuous professional development tailored to individual needs.

We are privileged to work in the attractive market town of Sherborne, which includes a beautiful Abbey, is steeped in heritage and has good connections by road and rail. We work closely with the other schools in Sherborne, particularly Sherborne (boys) School, to make this a unique educational experience.



Most of all we are proud of our girls, who leave us as at the end of their time at Sherborne as adaptable, courageous, compassionate and curious young women.

If you would like to be part of this thriving community then we would love to hear from you.

Jenny Dwyer, Headmistress

Sherborne Girls

The School

Sherborne Girls is an independent full boarding and day school founded in 1899. It is situated on a beautiful campus on the western edge of the historic Abbey town of Sherborne and has an excellent academic record combined with first-rate facilities. It aims to give its pupils a broad and balanced academic, physical, social and moral education. The school has an Anglican foundation. Academic results are excellent at GCSE, A Level and in the International Baccalaureate, with most girls moving on to Oxbridge or other Russell Group universities.

Neighbouring Schools

There are very good relations with neighbouring schools: drama, music, social and academic life are all greatly enhanced by shared activities and resources. At Sixth Form level, Sherborne Girls and Sherborne School operate a combined timetable, so that girls and boys have the opportunity to study subjects not available at their own schools. Both Advanced Level and International Baccalaureate courses are available for our Sixth Form of over 170 girls.

Boarding

The boarders live in seven purpose-built houses: one for Years 7 and 8, five mixed-aged houses for Years 9 to 12, and an Upper Sixth House. Each house has a pastoral team comprised of a teaching Housemistress or Housemaster, resident and non-resident tutors and matrons. Girls eat in their houses and the Personal Tutor system is house-based.

Academic Achievement

We are proud of our academic achievements and strive to give all our students the best opportunities for them to develop their unique potential. The curriculum is enriched by appropriate use of technology, an extensive co-curricular programme, a range of study days



and external trips. However, our aims are broader than just to achieve excellent examination results, and although our pupils make progress significantly above expectation, we also want them to develop independence and other life-skills, talents and interests, along with respect for one another.

Development

In the last five years, we have implemented our strategic vision, resulting in the building of a new Science Centre, a new Boarding House for Years 7 and 8 and the refurbishment of most academic spaces within the school. Boarding accommodation is being upgraded and there has been a reorganisation of pastoral staff in the boarding houses. A major development in our curriculum has been the introduction of our Sherborne Girls Diploma for pupils in Key Stage 3.

School Aims

- We aim to provide an excellent broad and academic, full-boarding education for girls enhanced by links with other communities
- We aim to develop the unique gifts of each girl by providing an environment and curriculum through which all members of the school will flourish
- We aim to create a community founded on Christian values and in which every girl is encouraged to develop their whole selves including a spiritual dimension
- We aim to send out into the world young women who are adaptable, intellectually enquiring, courageous and compassionate, with the confidence to be effective leaders



The Department

The Mathematics Department of Sherborne Girls aims to develop the abilities of our pupils to:

- set out mathematical work in a logical and clear form using appropriate symbols and terminology
- analyse a problem, select a suitable strategy and apply an appropriate technique to obtain its solution
- apply Mathematics in everyday situations and develop an understanding of the part which Mathematics plays in the world around them

All year groups are set for Mathematics and in years 10 and 11 further provision is made for the more able with an accelerated set who study AQA Further Mathematics Level 2 certificate in addition to the Edexcel iGCSE. In the Sixth Form, Mathematics is one of the most popular courses with pupils choosing to study the subject at A level or within the International Baccalaureate. For A Level, we follow the Edexcel Mathematics and Further Mathematics specifications.

As a department, we believe in offering our pupils opportunities to enjoy Mathematics outside of lessons. Top sets are entered for the relevant UKMT Maths Challenges each year and encouraged to participate in other competitions such as the Alan Turing Cryptography Competition and the annual IFS Student Investor Challenge. Joint events with local schools have proved popular with lectures on a variety of topics such as the 'Maths of Juggling' and the 'Origin of Number'.

Features

The Department comprises eight specialist teachers, including two teachers completing their NQT year. All of the teaching takes place in the Main School building in a dedicated area.

The members of the Mathematics Department form a highly motivated team with excellent subject knowledge, passion for the subject and diverse teaching styles. The number of students continuing this subject at A Level and IB (30% of the cohort) demonstrates the popularity and success of this subject. The Good Schools Guide created a formula which they called their 'wow factor calculation'. It aimed to distinguish brilliant teaching from brilliant pupils and Sherborne Girls was awarded Best performance by Girls taking Mathematics at an English Independent School (GCSE) in 2015 and 2016. As part of the team there are two experienced examination markers for A Level, IB and GCSE who provide up-to-date knowledge of the examination requirements and share ideas on how to improve teaching. A unique and valuable asset for the department is having a teacher who offers extra support for those pupils who struggle in this subject.

The Department has a strong focus on the future of Mathematics in the School and is keen to maintain the high level of results both at IGCSE, A level and IB. All staff integrate the use of ICT into their teaching and make full use of the School's resources in this area. Promethean Active Panels were installed in all mathematics teaching rooms in August 2017.

The Role

The appointed Head of Mathematics will be responsible for the strategic development of what is already an outstanding Mathematics department. They will have a passion for Mathematics, strong management skills and a flexible and imaginative approach to teaching and learning, with a vision to develop this area of the school to be highly regarded as a centre of excellence.

Leadership

- Support and lead the Mathematics Department in all areas of curriculum structure, strategic planning and development of Teaching and Learning and schemes of work
- Ensure that pupils are suitably prepared for entry to the appropriate public examinations, and to implement and review the curriculum to ensure that it meets the needs of the students
- Communicate effectively with staff, parents and pupils on all Mathematics curriculum and teaching and learning matters in maintaining high standards and expectations
- Chair regular Mathematics Department meetings and ensure that these are structured and recorded
- Observe and be observed on a regular basis as part of the on-going process of subject quality assurance and as part of the Staff Development Review process
- Use internal and external assessment data for effective evaluation and tracking, including scholarship and entrance examinations
- Take key responsibility for the promotion of achievements and experiences of pupils in Mathematics and career opportunities
- Organise and promote activities to enhance academic enrichment in Mathematics
- Be responsible for maintaining and developing links with Higher Education establishments
- Maintain the department area of the school VLE, Mathematics Department Handbook and Development Plan, and all required evidence for monitoring the effectiveness of teaching and learning and staff development
- Promote the development of technology for learning in Mathematics
- Represent the Mathematics Department at Heads of Department and Academic Hub meetings
- Take responsibility for Health and Safety in the Mathematics Department
- Take a full role in the appointment of staff to the Department, assist with the training of student teachers and in the induction of new staff

As a Teacher

- Lead by example as an outstanding classroom teacher, meeting all the requirements of teachers employed by the school including teaching across all age-ranges, providing for diverse needs within any given class, differentiating and maintaining high standards of discipline, and maintaining a stimulating classroom environment
- Be aware of, support, and implement all School policies, including assessment and reporting, rewards and conduct, and those in place to maintain safe working practice

All members of the teaching staff are expected to make a full commitment to the School's full boarding ethos, including being available for occasional weekend duties (normally two or three times a term). It is expected that teachers will make a significant contribution to the pastoral side of the school, including tutorial duties and liaison with a boarding house. All members of staff are expected to contribute towards the co-curricular provision of the school.

No list of duties can hope to be exhaustive; all members of staff are expected to undertake duties reasonably requested by the Headmistress.



Person Specification

Qualifications

- Be academically strong; hold a Mathematics degree with high honours

Experience/Knowledge

- Experience of: managing people, managing projects, meeting targets, teaching across a range of age groups
- Provide evidence of continuing professional development
- Experience of teaching A Level Further Mathematics is desirable

Personal Attributes/Skills

Sherborne Girls is seeking to appoint a person who in interview, and by virtue of their qualifications and experience, will demonstrate a range of qualities and skills as outlined broadly below:

- Inspire a love of learning in your subject area
- Have high standards of written and oral communication
- Be IT literate and confident in the use of a school management system
- Be willing to participate in Sherborne Girls co-curricular provision
- Be committed to the values and culture of the School
- Be committed to their own continued professional development
- Be organised, proactive and calm under pressure
- Be open-minded, imaginative and persuasive
- Have a good sense of humour
- Be resourceful and resilient
- Be ambitious to secure the highest standards

Benefits

- Salary will be dependent on knowledge and ability; the school operates a scale which is in excess of the National Scale in the maintained sector
- Teaching staff are offered free lunch and refreshments during term time
- All teaching staff are offered subsidised membership of Oxley Sports Centre
- All teaching staff are entitled to fee remission (At Sherborne Girls, Sherborne School and Sherborne Prep)



Safeguarding

Sherborne Girls School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Applicants must undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and DBS and barred lists checks. The school expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Sherborne Girls School is an equal opportunities employer.



Working in Sherborne

Sherborne is, without doubt, one of the most beautiful towns in England. With its abundance of medieval buildings, superb Abbey, world famous schools, picturesque Almshouse and two castles, Sherborne has much to offer. Ideally located on the Dorset and Somerset border it has excellent transport links enabling the town to flourish.

Sherborne is a popular centre of activity for locals and visitors alike. It is known for its cultural events and festivals as well as its attractive high street. Sherborne is surrounded by the beautiful Dorset countryside of Thomas Hardy's Wessex and is close to the spectacular Jurassic coastline.





Application Process

An application form may be downloaded from our website: www.sherborne.com/vacancies

Letters of application, along with a completed application form, should be addressed to the Headmistress, Mrs Jenny Dwyer, and sent to:
Mrs Heather Cousins
Personnel Manager
Sherborne Girls, Bradford Road
Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3QN

Or by email to: personnel@sherborne.com

Closing date for applications:
12 midnight, Wednesday 24 January 2018

Short-listed candidates will be invited to the school for interview. A tour of the school will be offered as part of the interview process.

For an informal discussion about the post, the Personnel Manager, Mrs Heather Cousins, will be pleased to answer any questions:
e-mail: personnel@sherborne.com

Sherborne Girls reserves the right not to appoint to this post should a suitable candidate not be identified. Candidates are welcome to apply at any time and may be called to interview immediately; we reserve the right to appoint at any stage during the process.

www.sherborne.com