



Head of School: Tom Goodenough  
Executive Headteacher: Rachael Warwick MA (Oxon)

9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Applicant

## Teacher of Psychology

Thank you for enquiring about this exciting post. Please find an application form, other recruitment material, and copy of the school's prospectus on the school website under the 'Join Us' tab.

Didcot Girls' School is a dynamic school. In December 2015, the school was judged to be Outstanding. As Ofsted recognised, we invest in all of our staff: **'Staff have exceptional opportunities for professional development. Staff feel valued and really like working in the school. Morale is very high.'**(Ofsted). Employing the right staff is key to our success. We believe that prioritising the wellbeing of our staff and investing in their professional development is the best way to release their potential. In return, we seek staff who are passionate about working with young people, resilient, and with a truly growth mindset. If this is you, we look forward to hearing from you!

We are a values-driven school, committed to high quality teaching and learning and respectful relationships within an inclusive learning community. Developing stimulating and student-centred teaching and learning is at the centre of our school development work. We work hard to ensure that all girls' education enables our students to develop confidence, leadership skills and high levels of aspiration. Our ethos is based on the growth mindset approach that 'Dreams don't work unless you do.' (John C. Maxwell). If you have not already done so, I recommend that you visit our website to gain an insight into the vibrant ethos of our school community.

Didcot Girls' School is an 11-18 girls' comprehensive school with academy status with approximately 1350 students on roll. GCSE results this summer were superb once more, placing the school in the top 20% of schools nationally for both progress (Progress 8 of +0.34) and attainment. 74% of our 179 Year 11 students achieved a Grade 9 - 4 and above in English and Maths. Results at the highest levels are also outstanding across all subjects and 31 students achieved 6 or more grades at A\*/A or grade 7-9. The school is genuinely comprehensive and our catchment area includes students from areas of relative deprivation as well as affluent socio-economic backgrounds. We are delighted to welcome increasing numbers of students from different cultures and we celebrate the diversity this brings to our school community. We run a large and successful mixed sixth form of approximately 350 students with St Birinus, the boys' school in Didcot. In September 2015, St Birinus School joined Didcot Girls' School in our multi-academy trust, the Ridgeway Education Trust. This partnership creates excellent opportunities and development for staff across both school sites.

Didcot Girls' School was accredited as a Teaching School Alliance in September 2017 and our Executive Headteacher, Rachael Warwick, is a National Leader in Education. The Teaching School creates additional opportunities for our staff to work within the Alliance supporting other schools as Specialist Leaders in Education.



National Teaching School  
designated by  
National College for  
Teaching & Leadership



Mandarin  
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Programme



## **The Post**

This is a key role in an outstanding and extremely high performing department. We are looking for someone with a genuine and infectious passion for teaching Psychology who will enthuse and engage the students they teach; someone with high expectations for all students whatever their prior attainment.

The successful applicant will teach across key stages 4 and 5: Psychology is a popular and successful subject at both Didcot Girls' School and St Birinus School and in our large mixed sixth form. The post is suitable for a newly qualified teacher as well as a more experienced teacher. Excellent professional development and support will be available to the successful candidate. Should you be interested in discussing, at interview, additional leadership opportunities available at Didcot Girls' School, please signal this in your application.

## **The Department**

The Psychology Department is staffed by two dynamic, talented and extremely supportive teachers.

## **Outcomes**

Results at all levels are very strong. Last year, Year 11 students significantly outperformed national averages at both A\*-A and A\*-C. Disadvantaged students perform just as well as non-disadvantaged students in Psychology and we are very proud of this achievement. A Level Psychology is very popular with strong results of ALPS 2 last summer and 50% of students achieving A\*-B grades. Many students continue to study Psychology at university.

## **Accommodation**

There are two dedicated Psychology classrooms with projectors, whiteboards and laptops available. In addition, there is an upstairs office and kitchen facilities that are shared with Business Studies.

## **Curriculum**

GCSE Psychology begins in Year 9 with students following the new Edexcel GCSE Specification. Psychology is very popular at Key Stage 4, with three classes in most year groups.

Psychology A Level is also a popular option in the joint Sixth Form; we offer AQA's Specification.

## **Supra-Curricular Activities**

We have many enrichment opportunities for our students including trips to Psychology conferences at both Key Stages, Psychology peer mentoring and competitions.

## **Applications**

Please enclose the following with your application:

- Completed application form – please pay close attention to the 'Relevant Skills and Experiences' section
- A response (maximum 2 sides of A4 in 11 point) to the following question: 'What does excellent teaching look like in Psychology?'



The deadline for applications is 9am on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February but please do submit your application as soon as it is ready. Completed applications should be sent to the Head of School's PA, Frances Adley at [fadley@didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:fadley@didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk) Visits to the school in advance of application are welcomed: please contact Frances to arrange this.

Please be aware that you will be required to bring your original Degree Certificate, proof of residence and your Disclosure and Barring Service or CRB certificate, if applicable, to your interview.

I thank you for your interest in this exciting post and wish you well with your application.

Yours sincerely



Tom Goodenough  
Head of School

Didcot Girls' School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

