

Graduate or Undergraduate Designer/Engineer Information for Candidates

The School

Oakham is one of the UK's most forward thinking and innovative co-educational boarding and day schools. The school has 1060 pupils aged 10-18, half of them boarders, half day pupils. With equal numbers of boys and girls since 1989, the School offers a truly co-educational environment.

Whilst attracting pupils from all over the country and abroad, the School enjoys a close relationship with the town and the surrounding area. Two years ago Oakham School became one of the sponsors of an academic Sixth Form Academy, Harington School.

Oakham's strength lies in providing a spectacularly wide range of opportunities and activities which sit alongside an invigorating and challenging academic curriculum. In the Upper School, students choose between A-levels, Pre-U and BTEC qualifications, or the IB Diploma.

In recent years, the school has made it a priority to develop independent learning through a series of learning habits, which are increasingly embedded across the curriculum, both inside and outside the classroom. The 'Oakham learning journey' begins in the Lower School (situated on the Jerwoods Site), where boys and girls are admitted through the School's own entrance exam at 11 (there is also a small entry at 10). Pupils also enter the school at 13+ through the Common Entrance (CE) examination and we have a further major entry point at 16+.

Over many years, the school has not only been incredibly successful academically, but it is also recognised nationally for its outstanding achievements in sport, music, drama and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The School is at an incredibly exciting point in its history and has a very ambitious development plan for the next five years, including a new facility for the Performing Arts. Last September, the School opened a new classroom block for Humanities. This year, the School opened a new state-of-the-art Faculty of Social Sciences and has just commenced major redevelopment of the Sports Centre. Oakham School does not stand still.

The Department

The successful candidate will play a major role in this thriving and flourishing department, which achieved national honours by winning the under 16 and under 18 category of Young Engineer for Britain in 2005 and IKB award in 2006. In 2013 two students were successful in reaching the national final of the Big Bang Science and Engineering Competition, one of whom won 3rd place overall and the best Craftmanship Award. 2014 was the fifth year in a row that students achieved a place at the national finals of this competition. Two students

have recently won first prize in the Alu-Challenge for which the school has been awarded an additional two 3d printers. In 2017 two students successfully won first prize at the MTA awards. The department is accredited for Arkwright Scholarships. The department was awarded the Design Mark in September 2014 for excellence in the teaching and provision of the subject.

There are currently 80 students studying AQA GCSE Electronic Products, Graphic Products or Resistant Materials, 20 students studying the AQA Design and Technology A-level course and 6 students studying IB Design Technology. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have one hour of Design Technology timetabled per week.

The Jerwood School of Design, a £2m facility for the teaching of Design and Technology opened in September 2008, to include specialist studios for CAD CAM, electronics and product design. The department retains some of the existing site in the adjacent Richard Bull Centre to house an additional CAD suite, project room, heat treatment and material preparation area, where other areas of this facility have been handed over to Art. This exceptional facility, which is open throughout the week and at the weekend, is run by a team of five full-time specialist teachers and two full-time technicians.

The Department at Oakham is distinctive in its genuine linking of Art, Design and Technology. Through the Creative Arts program we come into direct contact with over 800 of the school's students and, through exhibitions and activities, Art and Design Technology touch the lives of all those in the school.

Timetabled courses are a compulsory part of the curriculum for all members of the Junior and Middle School. During the first three years (Years 7,8,9) all students follow a foundation course in Design and Technology which introduces them to a variety of materials, systems and processes, to develop some basic skills and to encourage them to look creatively at a variety of posed situations.

In the final two years of the Middle School (Years 10 and 11) all students have the opportunity to select a more personal course of study by selecting one of the AQA GCSE Design and Technology options (Resistant Materials, Electronic Products, Graphic Products), although this will change as of September 2017.

In the Upper School, our programmes are popular, with 26 students currently involved in one or more of our courses. We currently offer AQA Design and Technology and IB Design Technology.

Our examination results are very good but these are not achieved at the expense of diversity and breadth.

The department currently offers Go4Set, Silver Crest, 4x4 challenge, EES and Greenpower as part of the weekly extra-curricular programme.

Public Examination Results

Academic performance is excellent. In the IB Diploma in 2017, students achieved a mean score of 36.1 points, with 90% of all Higher Level grades being 7, 6 or 5, and close to a quarter of students earned 40 or more points. At A-level, 13% of all examinations were graded A*, and 42% graded A* or A. Overall, combining across all qualifications, results for the Upper School equate to around 49% A-level grades A* or A or equivalent.

At GCSE level, typically around 65% of all examinations are awarded A* or A; in 2017, around a quarter achieved straight A*s and As, with around a third achieving five A*s or better.

Wider Curriculum

Oakham's total curriculum is particularly rich. The school has a strong reputation in the creative and performing arts. The Music Department has nearly 600 music lessons per week for pupils learning an instrument and there is a wide variety of orchestras, ensembles and groups, and over 270 children sing in the school choirs. At any one time there are some 45 music scholars in the school. Theatrical productions are frequent in the school's three venues for drama, including the professionally equipped Queen Elizabeth Theatre which is also used by the town and touring professional companies. The Richard Bull Centre houses a diversity of artistic enterprises from design technology to sculpture, textiles to jewellery. Scholarships are available in Art, Drama and Design & Technology. A whole range of societies and activities flourish, from 'dissection club' to chess and from the CCF to conservation.

Sport is outstanding and there is a considerable breadth of sport available at Oakham. (the school was the 'Daily Telegraph/Aviva Senior Sports School of the Year in 2009/10') The main sports are rugby, hockey and cricket for boys and hockey, netball and tennis for girls. In addition to this, the school has a strong reputation in sailing, rifle shooting, golf and swimming. In most years there are over fifty boys and girls who represent their county or country in a variety of sports.

Pupils are encouraged to be part of the wider life of the community and to see life beyond the East Midlands. This happens in a number of ways, through community service, through trips abroad, but most effectively through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Around 250 pupils participate in D of E activities every year and the school has a strong track record of success having achieved well over 5000 awards since first offering the scheme in 1960.

The richness and range of this activity is achieved within a full boarding environment operating seven days a week, with the term punctuated by weekend Leave Outs and Exeats (half term holidays). Term time can be intense, but rewarding: holidays are long. Members of staff are expected to involve themselves fully in the life of the school, helping with games and other activities outside the classroom. Special skills are welcomed but what matters most is a willingness to give time and energy generously.

The pastoral side of the school is well developed. All our pupils are members of one of the 16 houses, each with its own Housemaster or Housemistress, and every pupil has his or her own tutor. Tutors are responsible for a group of about a dozen pupils. All members of staff (including the Senior Leadership Team) have a specific pastoral role at Oakham.

Oakham is a Church of England foundation with an Anglican chaplain and a chapel which is in use every day. The school warmly welcomes those of other denominations. No-one is excluded from appointment on religious grounds but anyone intolerant of Christianity is unlikely to feel comfortable in the Oakham community.

Inspection Reports

Oakham School has recently undergone a very successful ISI Inspection (September 2013). The inspection reports can be viewed [here](#).

Application and Interviews

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to spend a day at the school and to meet the Deputy Head (Academic) and Head of Department, as well as members of the department and other colleagues from the school.

Candidates who wish to apply for this post should send their completed application form, covering letter stating where they saw the advertisement and CV giving details of two referees, to:

Mr Nigel Lashbrook, Headmaster
Oakham School
Chapel Close
Oakham
Rutland, LE15 6DT

or via email to Jackie Pridmore, School Administrator, jp2@oakham.rutland.sch.uk.

Initial enquiries should be directed to 01572 758506.

The closing date for applications is Friday 16 March (09.00). Interviews will be held on Tuesday 20 March.

Under current legislation, we are required to advise applicants that this appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure. Oakham School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service. Details of any criminal record (spent or unspent, due to exemption from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974) must be disclosed at interview. Only relevant convictions and other information will be taken into account so disclosure need not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position at Oakham School. A copy of the Recruitment of Ex-offenders Policy is enclosed. For further details, please visit the Disclosure & Barring website.