

# Job Description

## Teacher of Physics

George Watson's College wishes to appoint a Full Time Permanent Teacher of Physics from August 2018.

### THE SCHOOL

George Watson's College is renowned as a large, inclusive and vibrant co-educational school offering all-through education for children from 3-18. Despite its size, everyone remarks that it has a small-school 'feel': the close-knit and friendly relationships amongst all its constituents are a hallmark of the School. Its motto – *Ex Corde Caritas* (Love from the Heart) – is central to its values as it seeks to sustain what is described as 'The Watson's Family'.

This tangible sense of togetherness is significantly enhanced by everyone being on one purpose-built site, which is located in the attractive residential district of Morningside, to the South West of the centre of Edinburgh. Edinburgh itself is the second strongest city economy in the UK, outside of London, with the highest percentage of graduates and professionally qualified adults in the UK and over 25% of school age children attending fee-paying schools. Watson's is proud of its independent status and, whilst remaining true to its Scottish roots, seeks to sustain and develop an international perspective. The curriculum is adapting to the innovations inherent in Scotland's new Curriculum for Excellence and the new Scottish National Qualifications. In addition, the School offers its older pupils the opportunity to take the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme. Watson's is the only school to offer this alternative alongside Scottish qualifications.

The School welcomes a wide range of academic ability, and has very high academic standards, with 90% of pupils going on to Higher Education and a large proportion of pupils achieving outstanding success. Watson's also has excellent facilities, and offers a huge range of courses as well as extra-curricular activities. In addition, it has particular strengths in Sport, Music, Drama, Outdoor Education, Technology and in Support for Learning. The School is very well resourced with a campus-wide IT network.

The current Principal, Mr Melvyn Roffe took up his post in August 2014. He is a member of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC).

### The Senior School

Approximately two-thirds of pupils in the Senior School have progressed there from the Junior School. On arrival, they have a carefully worked out induction programme which includes a residential experience together in the first term.

In First and Second Year, a diverse and stimulating timetable balances challenging academic progression with a variety of learning experiences. Pupils study many of their subjects in their form classes but are set in English and Mathematics. This enables them to progress at a pace that provides the appropriate level of challenge and provides them with an opportunity to mix with the rest of their year group.

From Second Year, pupils discuss their personal targets and study options with teachers, through to their key certificate examinations, and we ensure that they choose subjects and levels that match their abilities and aspirations.

At Watson's we are proud of the exceptionally broad range of certificate courses we offer. Available at various levels of certification within the national qualifications framework, our extensive provision includes subjects across the

spectrum of arts, sciences and social sciences, with a notably wide selection of languages, including Mandarin Chinese.

It is important that we prepare pupils for the increased independence they will require after school. A programme of study skills encourages independent thought and enquiry. Throughout their time at Watson's, pupils make confident use of our outstanding IT facilities and our Library.

### **Department details:**

The Physics department staff consists of the Head of Department, Assistant Principal Teacher and a further four classroom teachers who all share the teaching of the subject. There is a Senior Physics Technician and a part time Technician.

### **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

The person appointed will:

- be a trained and qualified graduate teacher of Physics, registered or eligible for registration with the General Teaching Council of Scotland;
- be an academically rigorous, dynamic creative and flexible teacher in developing new ideas and resources, as well as adapting to curriculum changes;
- be a team player with a drive for learning and teaching, who is keen to explore innovative and stimulating ways to use their passion and expertise to positively encourage the next generation;
- strengthen the existing strong team ethos in the department

### **JOB SPECIFICATION**

The role of the classroom teacher in the Secondary School is to support the work of his or her department in striving to fulfil the School's credo, teaching 45 periods per cycle as a fulltime employee or such number as agreed in a part-time contract.

The teacher is responsible to the Principal through his or her Head of Department.

The teacher's duties are expressed in the Contract issued by the School and the teacher is subject to the policies of the School to perform such duties as the Principal shall reasonably direct related to the following areas of responsibility.

### **General Responsibilities**

1. To teach assigned classes in a competent, interesting and enthusiastic manner, which employs a variety of teaching methods, and is stimulating and relevant for the pupils at any given stage.
2. To put into practice the School's policy on Learning and Teaching.
3. To be thoroughly conversant with relevant syllabuses and resources and to prepare lessons and courses appropriate to any given stage.
4. To contribute to and implement departmental curriculum development including the exchange of ideas with colleagues.
5. To participate as necessary in the development of the School curriculum and to contribute constructively to the development of Secondary School curriculum policy.
6. To lead a course/year group within the Physics department. This includes updating notes, preparing/updating assessments, preparing a timeline of teaching/reporting and maintaining a record of suitable practical activities.

7. To assess, record and report on the work of the pupils as required by the School, including the punctual and meaningful correction of pupils' work with comments as appropriate.
8. To present pupils for and to participate in the conduct of any internal or national examinations, which the School deems suitable for its pupils.
9. To take part in the School's Staff Development Scheme, (PRD), completing the GTCS Professional Update and to undertake post-qualification training and development as appropriate and as required.
10. To contribute, where appropriate, to the professional development of colleagues, including probationary and student teachers.
11. To participate in the administration and organisation of the School as deemed appropriate by the Principal and Management Team including Heads of Department.
12. To maintain good order and discipline among pupils throughout the campus and to safeguard their health and safety.
13. To advise and guide pupils on issues related to their education.
14. To report on and to discuss pupils' progress with their parents and any other bodies that have statutory functions relating to the care of children and to liaise with parents as required.
15. To act as a Form Teacher and/or Tutor as required, carrying out the administrative, pastoral and advisory responsibilities of those roles.
16. To attend meetings and school functions as appropriate and to contribute positively and effectively to the corporate life and welfare of George Watson's College.
17. To participate in the wider life of the School, contributing regularly in at least one area to the School's extra-curricular programme.
18. To help to foster good working relationships with pupils and colleagues – teaching and support staff – in all aspect of School life.
19. To endeavour to play a part in the School's desire to keep George Watson's College at the vanguard of modern education.

It is expected that the person appointed will contribute effectively in maintaining the ethos of high expectation and enthusiasm throughout the department and in the classroom.

The person appointed will be expected to teach approximately 45 periods, of 55 minutes in length per ten-day timetable cycle, or its equivalent. The exact number of periods will depend upon departmental needs.

The person appointed will be responsible for the learning and teaching of classes employing effective pedagogy, using their skill and experience to enable pupils to become self-regulated and successful learners in achieving their potential in the subject to the full.

They will abide by the Code of Conduct for Staff at George Watson's College.

A contribution to the wider life of the School is an expectation of all staff.

### **Specific Responsibilities**

The person appointed will:

- maintain the Standard for Full GTCS registration. They will be required to undertake relevant CPD, be observed and write up all activities in the GTCS Profile;
- work effectively as a member of the department to facilitate outstanding teaching and learning and ensure pupils are properly prepared for examinations;
- set high expectations for all pupils, to deepen their knowledge and understanding to maximize achievement;

- prepare and provide classroom activities that are appropriate to each year group and differentiated for learners' needs;
- be confident of their ability to work and respond to the needs of pupils and inspire the next generation of young chemists
- develop new resources and course materials, as directed by and/or in collaboration with the Head of Physics;
- assess, record and report on work of pupils as required by the School, ensuring that assessments are punctual, meaningful and informative;
- attend parent evenings, Open Mornings and communicate with parents whenever necessary and contribute effectively and positively to the corporate life and welfare of the School.

### **Additional Responsibilities:**

The Teacher of Physics should also be willing to undertake such other responsibilities as the Head of Department may from time to time reasonably require.

### **REMUNERATION**

Teaching staff at George Watson's College are paid at a level which is currently 8% higher than the Scottish Teachers' Pay Scales. The salary is pensionable under the Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme.

### **DISCLOSURE SCOTLAND - PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS SCHEME**

All staff must be prepared to undergo screening to confirm their suitability to work with children and young people.

### **CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT / PROFESSIONAL REVIEW**

All staff are required to participate in appropriate programmes of continuing professional development and undergo professional review as set out in the School's policy.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

To apply, please send a letter of application of not more than 800 words giving us more information about you, which role you are applying for and why you would like that role, addressed to Mr Gordon Boyd, Head of Senior School. The letter, completed application form and diversity monitoring form must reach Jane Robinson, Interim HR Manager by email ([vacancies@gwc.org.uk](mailto:vacancies@gwc.org.uk)) no later than noon on Tuesday 20 February 2018.

Any specific questions relating to the advertised posts can be put directly to the Head of Department, Mr Iain Lawrie by email ([i.lawrie@gwc.org.uk](mailto:i.lawrie@gwc.org.uk)).

Candidates called for interview will be asked to teach a lesson as part of the selection process.

If you require more information about the School, please visit our school website.

Closing date Tuesday 20 February 2018.

Interviews are scheduled to take place on Friday 2 March 2018.