

# Teacher of Geography 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

Our busy, innovative department focuses on active teaching and learning of which a practical, enquiry based approach is adopted. Our aim is for pupils to be geographers, rather than discover the subject second hand. To fulfil this target we have been active in developing our own syllabuses and taking advantage of the opportunities presented both at GCSE, AS/A2 and at IB.

Geography has a firm place within the whole school curriculum. Nearly all pupils follow Geography to GCSE. Take up beyond GCSE is also very high, with 130 students currently studying Geography in the Upper School.

### **Courses and Classes**

In the Lower School (Forms 1 and 2) pupils follow internally developed syllabi designed to foster practical skills and a 'sense of place'. They study our version of Key Stage 3 National Curriculum.

In the Middle School (Forms 3, 4, 5) there are normally seven sets in each year group. Form 3 classes have two periods and one prep per week; in Forms 4 and 5 each class has three lessons and two preps per week. The GCSE syllabus we study is CIE IGCSE. Field trips take place in each of these year groups. We also run foreign trips for middle school geographers, the next one going to Iceland at Easter 2019.

In the Upper School (Forms 6 and 7) there are currently five sets taking AS, the majority of which carry on to A2. There are two sets in each IB year. The A Level syllabus we study is CIE A Level. Each A Level class has six periods per week, while each IB class has five periods per week. Field courses are run in February to Cranedale, North Yorkshire for the Year 12 students. There are numerous other field days and study visits for each year group. Recent trips abroad have included the USA and Italy, with the 25 upper school geographers visiting Morocco in October 2018.

### **Examination results**

Results at GCSE, IB and A2 have been consistently good. For the last five years the department averages have been as follows: A Level 77% (A\*-B), IB 80% (7/6) and GCSE 70% (A\*/A).

### **University**

For each of the past five years, around ten pupils have gone on to study Geography or something Geography related at university. The department has also had recent success with Oxbridge applications.

### **Staff**

The department team consist of nine full time geographers.

### **Classrooms**

Lessons for Form 1 occur in the Lower School block; otherwise Geography teaching is centralised in the New Merton building

The department is very lucky in that it has a brand new building to be opened in September 2015. Within this we have eight dedicated Geography classrooms. Each classroom is equipped with a computer, interactive whiteboard and Data Projector. There is also a large departmental office and separate resource room.

### **Public Examination Results**

Academic performance is excellent. In the IB Diploma in 2016, students achieved a mean score of 37.2 points, with 97% of all Higher Level grades being 7, 6 or 5, and over a quarter scoring 40 or more points. At A-level, 17.5% of all examinations were graded A\*, and 74% graded in the range A\* to B. Overall, combining across all qualifications, results for the Upper School equate to around 82% A-level grades A\*-B or equivalent.

At GCSE level, typically around 65% of all examinations are awarded A\* or A; in 2016, over a quarter achieved straight A\*s and As, with 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.

## **Timetable**

The school runs seven days a week during term time, with a total curriculum of pupil activity both within the formal timetable and beyond it. A full-time teacher is expected to teach twenty periods of 50 minutes per week, as well as fulfilling the tutorial and activity commitments.

## **Newly Qualified Teachers**

The school is fully accredited to participate in the ISTip NQT Induction Programme in order to provide qualified teacher status (QTS) at the conclusion of a newly qualified teacher's first year at Oakham.

## **Applicants without formal teaching qualifications or experience**

Applicants without formal teaching qualifications or experience will be considered for this position. Oakham School has a long record of training and developing teachers and many highly successful teachers started with no formal teaching qualifications. For applicants without a teaching qualification we are looking for: a high level of subject knowledge, enthusiasm, good communication skills, patience, an empathy with young people and a desire to get involved in the extra-curricular life of the school.

## **Salary and Professional Development**

Oakham operates its own competitive salary structure, and the school is keen to recruit and retain high quality staff. There is a generous professional development budget, and staff are encouraged to undertake research and training that will both develop them and enhance the school's educational provision.

## **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 Headmaster, Deputy Head (Academic) and Head of Department, as well as members of the department and other colleagues from the school. Candidates will be asked to teach a lesson as part of the selection process and further details will be forthcoming should you be shortlisted.

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) at [jp2@oakham.rutland.sch.uk](mailto:jp2@oakham.rutland.sch.uk).

Initial enquiries should be directed to 01572 758506.

**The closing date for applications is Thursday 1 March at 12 noon. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 6 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.