

Appointment of Teacher of Geography September 2018

We seek an enthusiastic Geography Teacher for September 2018. The post will be full-time and for a minimum of 18, 50 minute periods a week (Years 7-13). We are looking for someone committed to the educational values that Geography has to contribute to a wide and varied curriculum. The successful candidate will also be expected to take a full part in the life of Oakham School.

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.

Oakham School

Oakham is an independent HMC school founded in 1584 by Archdeacon Robert Johnson. Well known in the early years as a centre of learning, the school declined in the Victorian era, remaining relatively small and parochial well into this century. The last 40 years has seen a dramatic transformation. In 1971 Oakham became the first boys' public school to welcome girls at all ages and began to increase its numbers and facilities significantly. There are now some 1,050 pupils in the school 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. The school has a strong family atmosphere: almost half the pupils have brothers or sisters in school.

The market town of Oakham, close by Rutland Water, is the principal town of Rutland which was returned to county status in April 1997. Whilst attracting pupils from all over the country and abroad, the school enjoys a close relationship with the town and the surrounding area.

The school provides an inspiring environment in which learning is not confined by the walls of a classroom. Academic excellence is combined with the highest level of achievement in sport, the performing and creative arts and service activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Outstanding pastoral care across the school's sixteen boarding and day houses allows each pupil to find their niche and go beyond their potential.

Boys and girls are admitted through the school's own entrance exam at 11 (there is also a small entry at 10) and Common Entrance (CE) for prep school candidates at 13 or the school's own exam for boys and girls who attend non-CE schools. Children are accepted who are likely to benefit from Oakham life: as a matter of policy they are drawn from a fairly broad range of ability. (To offer a context for this statement, it might be useful for you to know that we ask for a mark of 55% or above at Common Entrance.) The school's aim is to prepare young people in as full a way as possible for adult life by providing a genuinely holistic education. Appreciating the diverse skills and abilities of others is a central part of this preparation.

All pupils follow a broad curriculum to the end of the 3rd form (year 9) and then take GCSE/iGCSE's which for most consists of English, Maths, Sciences, a modern language, History, Geography a Creative Arts subject and an "option" subject. The vast majority continue into the Upper School where they are joined by boys and girls from elsewhere who are accepted subject to entrance exam and interview. Sixth

Formers have the option of following the AS/A2 route or taking the International Baccalaureate. The Upper School numbers around 400 students of whom about 95% regularly continue into Higher Education at a wide range of universities, including some 8 or so each year to Oxford or Cambridge.

Academic performance is excellent. Typically we have a 100% A Level pass rate with over 30 students achieving straight A*'s/As and 75% of exams awarded A* - B grades. IB Diploma students have achieved an average 36 points (worldwide average is 30). At GCSE, the school regularly achieves over 65% A*/A grades.

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 40 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 juggling 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 50 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. The school currently holds the world record for the number of Gold Awards (now over 1500) achieved by a single institution since the scheme began.

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 has 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.

The school has an exciting development plan for the next five years with a central focus on the development of independent learning throughout the school. There are

also capital plans for a new Music School, a state-of-the-art teaching centre for the humanities and social sciences, and a significant upgrade of our indoor sports facilities. In the last few years the school has opened a stunning new Design Centre, a new Faculty of Science which houses a 200-seater auditorium, and a superb new Sports Pavilion. We are currently embarking on the construction of a new centre for Humanities.

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. From September 2017, a full-time teacher will be expected to teach twenty periods of 50 minutes per week as well as fulfilling the tutorial and activity commitments. The successful candidate will have a genuine enthusiasm for the subject and will be well placed to generate and sustain a high degree of motivation in all pupils, whatever their ability.

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 in partnership with the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP), 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 underwent a very successful ISI Inspection in September 2013. The inspection reports can be viewed at https://www.oakham.rutland.sch.uk/uploadedFiles/Website/Admissions/ISI_Inspection_Report/Oakham_ISI_Report_2013.pdf

Interviews

Candidates will be invited to spend a day at the school and to meet the Headmaster and Academic Deputy Head, as well as the Head of Department. Candidates will be asked to teach a lesson as part of the selection process and further details will be forthcoming from the Head of Department if you are shortlisted.

Post Title: Teacher of Geography

Responsibility

Curriculum

- Teaching to GCSE/IGCSE, A level, IB and Oxbridge entry standard
- Teaching throughout the school in a manner appropriate to students' ages and abilities
- Assessing and recording students' progress in accordance with departmental and school policies
- Preparing students for Oxbridge and other university applications
- Promoting the subject to potential sixth form students
- Attending and contributing to departmental meetings
- Developing and sharing teaching and learning resources
- Monitoring the work and progress of pupils, including those with specific learning needs
- Maintaining professional skills through INSET and our Professional Development programme
- Being proactive in exploring innovative ways of delivering ICT through the curriculum
- Producing classroom displays to create an attractive learning environment in the department

Extra-curricular

- Contributing to the extra-curricular life of the school through Games, the Activities Programme or other appropriate commitment

Pastoral

- Taking part in the pastoral life of the school as a Tutor in a boarding or day house.

Appraisal

- All members of the teaching staff at Oakham are appraised biennially by the Head of Department and a member of the Senior Management Team. The appraisal is concluded by a one-to-one meeting with the Headmaster.

Candidates who wish to apply for this post should send their completed application form, covering letter stating where they saw the advertisement and C.V. 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 12 noon on Thursday 1 March.

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.