Harlington Upper School

Teacher of Science

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

Posts working with either children and/or vulnerable adults will be subject to the disclosure of criminal records

Teacher of Science MPS/UPS

An enthusiastic teacher of science is required for September 2018 to join a highly successful and supportive faculty. The science department is one of the leading departments in the school for curriculum development and teaching and learning. This post would suit either an NQT or experienced teacher.

The School

Harlington Upper School is a large, successful upper school with a strong local reputation for high levels of student achievement. Established in 1974 and having sustained very good levels of performance for many years Harlington Upper School has now reached a significant stage in its development. Our Ofsted inspection of October 2013 confirmed that we are a good school with many strengths. We believe we are an even better school now.

Harlington has a unique location in Mid Bedfordshire with a pleasant location and good transport links. We are placed in the heart of a rural environment but have strong urban links. Harlington is one mile from junction 12 of the M1 and has a train station with commuter routes to London and the Midlands.

There are currently approximately 1200 students in the school, including 200 in the sixth-form. Students join the school in year 9 after attending one of three main feeder middle schools. Students of all abilities make good progress and gain excellent results. Attainment is well above local authority and national averages. For example, in 2017 over 81% of students gained GCSE grades 9-4 in English and mathematics. More broadly, 75% of students gained five or more grades 9-4 / A* - C including English and Maths. We are proud that usually all students progress to appropriate employment, education or training aged 16.

A Level results at Harlington are routinely above average and many students gain the highest grades possible. In 2017 45% of all A levels were graded as A*, A and B. It is therefore not surprising that almost all students were successful in securing admission to their first-choice university.

Although Harlington is a very successful school we are not complacent and recognise that we can achieve even more. We therefore focus on supporting each individual student to make the best possible progress. We are very aware that school is more than just a place to gain good exam results and we work continually to maintain the positive, supportive and respectful culture that characterises Harlington. We have a very effective pastoral system, led by Heads of Year and supported by a team of Student Support Assistants. Students are guided by the school motto “Know Thyself” and attitudes to all aspects of school life are good.

The Department

The Science department at Harlington Upper School consists of 15 teachers, supported by 3 Laboratory technicians.

The department occupies of a suite of eleven laboratories. There are two prep rooms and a faculty office for staff. All classrooms are equipped with a fixed digital projector and ICT provision is excellent

Science is a popular subject at GCSE. Over 30% of students study separate sciences. Standards are high with 72% of GCSE Science students gaining grades A* to C in 2017. The Science progress/core was a pleasing + 0.2

A large number of students study Physics, Chemistry or Biology to A level and gain superb results.

Courses

All Year 9 students are currently taught for eight hours per fortnight. They are placed in groups of similar ability at the start of the year 35% of students study triple science at GCSE.

The department currently offers:

- GCSE Core Science (OCR)
- GCSE Additional Science (OCR)
- AS + A level Biology (OCR)
- AS + A level Chemistry (OCR)
- AS + A level Physics (OCR)
- GCSE Biology
- GCSE Chemistry
- GCSE Physics
- BTEC Chemistry L3
- BTEC Biology L3

Extra Curricular Activities

Recently the Science department has been busy with extra-curricular activities, these include:

- Year 9 and 10 students attended Science Superheroes
- The Level 2 Applied Science group had a trip to the Isle of Wight
- The A level Physics group visited Geneva, to see the European particle accelerator at CERN
- Sixth Form Biology, Chemistry and Physics students go to day and evening lectures on a regular basis
- Sixth form and Triple Science students visited the Marston Vale Forest Centre to work with the British Ecological Society
- Finalists in *Express Yourself*, National Science Competition
- National Science Week events have included comet building, and inflatable planetarium, a space rocket on site and rocket launching, the science behind fireworks, a CSI event and, most recently, science of sports, linked to the Olympics.
- 'We Bring The Zoo To You' Event

Summary

Science is a popular subject at Harlington and it is well taught by a strong and supportive team of science teachers. This is an excellent opportunity for a recently qualified or established teacher wishing to broaden their experience in a very successful curriculum area. Professional development has a high priority in the school.

The job description and person specification outline the scope of the post and the attributes of the person we are looking for. Most important, however, is a desire to teach Science to help students enjoy the subject and achieve excellent outcomes.

Teacher of Science: Person Specification

Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	
Education to degree or equivalent level in Science (or a relevant subject) plus teaching qualification	
Skills and Experience	
Evidence of successful teaching experience or teaching practice	
Ability to teach a science subject to A level	Ability to teach Physics or Chemistry to A level
Knowledge and understanding of current issues in science education	Good ICT skills
Good oral and written communication skills	Experience of extra-curricular activities
Commitment to the values and ethos of the school	Ability to communicate well with pupils, parents and staff
Personal Attributes	
Commitment and enthusiasm	Understanding of own strengths and areas for development
Ability to establish good relationships with pupils, parents & staff	
Dependability and sound organisational skills	Good time management