



JOB DESCRIPTION

TEACHER OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES & PHILOSOPHY

JOB TITLE: Teacher of Religious Studies & Philosophy – full-time position required from September 2018

REPORTING LINE: Head of Religious Studies & Philosophy

HAMPTON SCHOOL

Hampton is one of the country's leading, most successful and best-resourced independent schools and has been helping boys to fulfil their potential and realise their aspirations for nearly 460 years. We are a lively, friendly and caring School community, where innovative teaching is underpinned by strong, shared values and complemented by outstanding pastoral care. We aspire to enable our boys not only to make sense of the world but also to want to go out and improve it.

The School's examination results and university entrance record consistently rank among the very best achieved anywhere, while the very wide range of co-curricular activities on offer provides each boy with the opportunity to shine and the means to explore new interests. Nearly all our leavers go on to undergraduate courses at Russell Group or equivalent universities/medical schools. Around 25 Hamptonians gain places at Oxford and Cambridge each year; an increasing number go on to study at US Ivy League universities, often on academic and sporting scholarships. Our alumni network is extremely strong and former pupils remain very interested in their School, in no small part due to the exceptionally warm and mutually respectful relationships enjoyed between staff and pupils.

Situated on a greenfield site in a leafy suburb of South West London, we are fortunate to have over 27 acres of playing fields within our spacious grounds and a generous investment programme ensures that our pupils and staff enjoy the use of first-class facilities across all areas of School life. These include a state-of-the-art 3G sports ground, a large Sports Hall and The Hammond Theatre, along with an excellent library and specialist facilities for Art, Science, Technology, IT and Languages. In terms of future projects, we are looking forward next to the opening of our new Sixth Form Study Centre in Autumn Term 2018. The Millennium Boat House, shared with our neighbouring girls' school, Lady Eleanor Holles, enjoys a prime location on the nearby River Thames and provides the focal point for our renowned and highly successful Boat Club.

Visitors from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) concluded in March 2016 that Hampton's academic and all-round excellence merited the rarely-awarded ISI assessment of pupils' achievements and learning as being 'Exceptional'. The inspection team's findings in all other areas were similarly pleasing and the highest possible judgements were achieved across the board. A copy of the full ISI report can be found on the School website.

We hope you share our vision for an inspiring, modern and exciting education. Further information for prospective teaching staff can be found at:

<https://hamptonschool.org.uk/teachingathampton>

GENERAL

An enthusiastic, well-qualified Teacher of Religious Studies is required from September 2018.

Contribution to the wider life of the School is also expected from staff at Hampton.

Teachers may be responsible to other colleagues in their work, (e.g. a Form Tutor will have the Head of Year as their immediate line manager for pastoral work).

THE DEPARTMENT

Hampton School has a healthy tradition of Religious Studies at all levels. The GCSE and AS-Level/Pre-U courses are popular and extremely well supported, regularly drawing some of the School's brightest pupils, and prompting students each year to continue studying the subject at university. We regularly send students to read Philosophy and Theology courses at Oxford, Cambridge and other leading universities. Our aim is to provide genuinely imaginative, varied and challenging courses at all levels in the School.

Although full guidelines and support material are provided for all the courses we teach, the ethos of the Department is to encourage individual teachers to shape the basic themes and material according to their own enthusiasms and specialisms, and the developing interests of the class groups. We seek to create a classroom ethos of collaboration and discussion, in response to a variety of high-quality stimuli. The last few years have seen a significant growth in the range of departmental resources, and we are excited by the enrichment that this continuing process provides.

There are currently seven members of the Department, making us unusually large for a Religious Studies and Philosophy Department. The post advertised is a new position due to the ongoing growth and popularity of the subject at both GCSE and in the Sixth Form. The successful candidate person will be required for 30 periods in the week, and will be expected to teach groups throughout the School's age and ability range, from the First Year to the Upper Sixth.

Lower School Religious Studies

The First Year (Year 7), which has two RS lessons per week, begins with a course entitled *Introduction to Philosophy and Religion* for half a term, introducing some of the biggest and most abstract questions that humans can ask. For the rest of the Autumn Term and half of the Spring Term, we teach a course called *Introduction to Judaism*. In the Summer Term, we provide an *Introduction to Hinduism*. These courses are complemented by visits to the West London Synagogue, the Jewish Museum London, and the Neasden Mandir.

The first term of the Second Year (Year 8) (also two lessons per week) is taken up with an *Introduction to Christianity*. In the Spring Term, we provide an *Introduction to Sikhism*, which includes a popular and valuable visit to the largest Gurdwara in the United Kingdom (in Southall), along with the London Russian Orthodox Church Abroad and Saint Anne's Church, Kew. The year finishes with an *Introduction to Islam* in the Summer Term.

A significant number of boys join the School at 13 years old. The Third Year (Year 9) course (one lesson per week, taught in half-size classes) consists initially of an *Introduction to Philosophy of Religion* in the Autumn Term and then moves to an *Introduction to Buddhism*. The Spring Term begins with an exploration of the themes of *Forgiveness and Non-Violence*, and then moves into a course on *Islam and Contemporary Society*.

GCSE Religious Studies

There are flourishing GCSE option groups in the Fourth and Fifth Years (Years 10-11) which take courses on *Christianity: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices* (25%) and *Buddhism: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices* (25%) along with various *Religious, Philosophical, and Ethical Studies* (50%) (AQA specification). We have an ongoing programme of visits and visitors to support these popular courses. The Department standardly achieves a record of c. 90% of grades awarded at A and A*.

In addition, in the Fourth Year (Year 10), all boys take a course called *Life Issues* (one lesson per week), which introduces contemporary moral issues from a variety of perspectives, secular and religious.

Sixth Form Religious Studies

The subject has become increasingly popular in the Sixth Form in recent years. From September 2015 we have run a Pre-U Course in *Philosophy and Theology* with papers in the *Philosophy of Religion* and *Religious Ethics*. We will also be running AS Level courses in *Philosophy of Religion*, *Religious Ethics* and *Philosophy of Religion* (following the Eduqas specification). The Department has achieved 100% of grades awarded at A* to B for the last twelve years.

We also run a Philosophy and Theology Extension Programme for those intending to read either Philosophy or Theology at university. We will welcome contributions to this from the person appointed.

Co-curricular Activities

The School is non-denominational, but has historical roots at a nearby Anglican Church, and this has shaped the basic ethos of the community and its assemblies. There are sizeable minorities of boys from other faith traditions, however, and our Religious Studies courses are increasingly benefiting from contact with a range of different faith groups. There are two Christian groups: the Junior Christian Union for Lower School boys, and the Senior Christian Union. The School also makes provision for Jewish, Indian (comprising the Hindu and Sikh religions) and Muslim societies to meet. In recent years, the Indian society has helped to run a Diwali evening in the Hammond Theatre in November, which has proved to be great fun and very popular. There are Meditation Classes that attract boys from a variety of faith traditions and from none. We also run Junior and Senior Philosophy Circles, which provide the opportunity for lunchtime discussions on philosophical, ethical and moral themes between boys from throughout the School, and the successful applicant would be expected to have regular input to this. The Department is also active in promotion of environmental and world development issues and many students have been involved in the School's Amnesty International group.

SKILLS, QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Essential Criteria:

- A good Philosophy or Theology honours degree.
- An enthusiastic commitment to all aspects of the Religious Studies & Philosophy Department's programmes of academic and co-curricular activities, up to Sixth Form.
- Excellent communication skills, oral, written and in the use of ICT (Microsoft Office). All teaching staff will be supplied with a laptop computer.
- The ability to demonstrate characteristics of outstanding teaching practice.
- An awareness of the demands of teaching bright students and a commitment to fostering high academic achievement.
- The ability to work as part of a team.
- A professional approach, which inspires confidence in pupils and parents.
- Excellent communication and ICT skills.
- Calmness and efficiency, with the ability to work under pressure at times.
- Commitment to continuing professional development through attendance at INSET.
- Commitment to the all-round ethos of the School, including its co-curricular activities and pastoral approach.

Desirable Criteria

- A higher degree or experience of educational or subject-specific research.
- A teaching qualification and/or some previous teaching experience.
- The ability to develop and maintain effective relationships with all members of the School community and outside agencies.
- An ability to offer skills in some part of the extra-curricular programme of the School.
- Enjoy rising to the challenge inherent in a school environment.

Please note that there may be some changes and additions to the above, which will be discussed before implementation and changes may occur as the post develops. This document is designed to provide applicants with a "flavour" of the position and responsibilities.

SAFEGUARDING

The post holder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom s/he is responsible, or with whom s/he comes into contact will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the School's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post the post holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the School s/he must report any concerns to the School's Safeguarding Designated Persons or to the Headmaster. Hampton School is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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Please note all appointments are subject to the Hampton School Trust Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy and Procedure.

Hampton School Religious Studies & Philosophy Department, January 2018