

RAINHAM MARK GRAMMAR SCHOOL

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT (EASTER 2018 OR SEPTEMBER 2018)

The Department

This is a very exciting time for the science department. We are continuing to expand and enhance the science provision in many ways, particularly through the innovative use of ICT, enriching GCSE courses and offering additional GCSEs (e.g. in astronomy and human physiology). We are also delivering bespoke INSET to local schools as the Kent and Medway lead Science Learning Partnership and through links with the Stimulating Physics network. In addition, we support a number of local feeder primary schools with our science outreach programme and currently run the CREST award scheme for years 7 to 10.

The school was inspected by Ofsted in June 2014. The school was graded as outstanding in all areas with the Science department making a significant contribution to this success. Student's achievement continues to improve and Science is one of the highest performing subjects within the school.

There are 14 teaching staff in the science department. They are ably supported by an experienced team of six technicians. There are nine science laboratories, four of which are labs in a separate (but adjacent) block. The school has benefited from additional funding from Medway for the refurbishment of two of the older labs, both duly completed in the last few years. With the additional funding available through our gaining Science College status, all labs are equipped with interactive boards. The department has been generously resourced. For example this has enabled the purchase of 45 Pentium laptop computers with the associated data logging equipment and an extensive range of sensors. The Science department also benefits from an adjacent ICT suite. Members of staff in the science department each have their own personal surface tablet. Further expansion of laboratory space is due to take place over the next few years.

KS3

Year 8 students currently follow the Oxford 'Science Works' course with various in-house modifications. This is due to be updated to follow the new science curriculum framework. Pupils in Year 7 are taught in mixed ability Form Groups normally by one Science Teacher. Pupils in Year 8 are also taught in mixed ability Form Groups normally by one Science Teacher. Pupils in Year 9 start their studies for Core Science GCSE and are placed into mixed ability groups. Pupils in Year 9 normally have a separate subject specialist for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

KS4

Pupils in Year 10 and 11 are placed into ability groups based on their performance and class teacher assessment. Pupils have a subject specialist for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Approximately 65-70% move on with 'Triple' science. A minority of pupils study 'double science', moving at a pace more appropriate for them. The AQA schemes are followed.

KS5

The sciences are very popular choices at A level. Most sets contain between 12 and 20 students. Numbers are increasing and the current situation is that there are seven Biology classes, five chemistry and four Physics across KS5. The OCR Schemes are followed.

The Post

We are looking to appoint a committed and enthusiastic teacher to lead the Biology department at Rainham Mark Grammar School. The post offers the opportunity to work with high ability young people in a school which values the subject and supports its development.

The specific responsibilities of the role include:

- To lead and manage a departmental team.
- To develop the curriculum within the department and prepare, review and update schemes of work.
- To be responsible for standards of teaching and learning within the department as a whole.
- To liaise with the Head of Science about the welfare, support and professional development of staff.
- To act as a performance management reviewer to members of the department. (You do not need previous experience of this.)

The Person

Ideally, we are looking for someone who possesses the following qualities and/or experience. We realise that such a list always looks daunting, and it would be unrealistic of us to expect you to possess all of these to the same degree. Please feel free to indicate in your supporting statement how you fulfil some of them.

- The ability to inspire students with an enthusiasm for Science and in particular Biology.
- The ability to, or the potential to, motivate academically able students to produce work of high quality in the subject.
- Results which provide evidence of successful performance.
- The willingness to approach change positively, and to lead others in implementing change.
- The ability to lead a team.
- The ability to support, encourage and guide other members of the department.
- Efficient administrative skills.

We encourage you to submit an application if you think you would enjoy working here. If you would like further information about the post, or would like to visit the school, please telephone or email Kevin Frost (Assistant Headteacher/Head of Science) on 01634 364151 or kfrost@rmgs.org.uk

We look forward to receiving your application.

Thank you very much for your interest.

Kevin Frost