



MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS 7 - 18 AND SIXTH FORM GIRLS



Information Pack
Teacher of Biology, 1 year fixed-term contract
To start January 2019

Closing date: Tuesday 14th August
Interview date: week beginning Monday 20th August

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Introduction from the Master, Helen Pike

Magdalen College School is a remarkable place. We are now well into our sixth century, and our former pupils include scholars, war heroes, musicians, Olympians, two Nobel Prize laureates, a Hollywood film director, and a saint. Our success in public examinations, in securing places at top universities, and in an astonishing array of extra-curricular pursuits ensures that we continue this proud tradition. We do so by nurturing the individual potential of each of our pupils, and above all we believe that learning is as fun as it is fulfilling.



Magdalen College School was founded in 1480 by William of Waynflete: schoolmaster, bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor of England. Being of humble origins, Waynflete was determined that others of ability should be given the opportunity to learn, to serve and to prosper as he did. And so MCS offers a transformative education in our global university city, the community to which we contribute.

We attract and retain the best staff and MCS is a stimulating, welcoming and thriving environment in which both to learn and to work.

A lot happens at MCS. The various sections of our website (www.mcsoxford.org) including the recent [News](#) will give you an impression of our school.

Thank you for your interest.

H. C. Pike

TEACHER OF BIOLOGY

General Information

The School

Magdalen College School, founded in 1480 by William of Waynflete, is one of the country's leading independent day schools. It is situated in an enviable location at the heart of Oxford beside the River Cherwell. It educates boys from 7 – 18, and girls in the Sixth Form.

The Role

The school is seeking to appoint a graduate or experienced teacher from 1st January 2019 to teach bright and enthusiastic pupils Biology from Year 7 to A Level and Oxbridge. Further information on the post is included below.



Application Process

Candidates should submit the Application Form for Teaching Staff which can be found on the Job Vacancy link of the website (www.mcsoxford.org). To access [click here](#). This should be emailed together with a cv and covering letter of application and addressed to the Recruitment Officer, Mrs Sarah Hunter, at email address shunter@mcsoxford.org. All documentation should be sent no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 14th August. We anticipate holding interviews in the week beginning Monday 20th August and will be in contact with shortlisted candidates by telephone. **Early applications are encouraged as we may invite candidates to interview at any time. The school reserves the right to appoint before the closing date.** The school's preferred method of communication is by email and it will not be necessary to send a hard copy of the documents by post.

Safeguarding Policy

Magdalen College School is committed to the safeguarding of pupils, and any offer of employment will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure, the receipt of satisfactory references, the school's pre-employment medical questionnaire, plus sight of relevant original ID documentation and degree certificate(s).

Additional Information

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the HR office: 01865 253401.

The Department

The Biology Department currently consists of five full-time and one part-time teacher who form a close-knit team which shares ideas and resources freely. Communication, adaptability, hard work and a good sense of humour are fundamental to the Department's success. The successful candidate will be required to teach across year groups from Year 7 to A Level and Oxbridge.

Biology is a well-established and particularly successful subject at Magdalen College School: the subject is well resourced and is liked and respected by pupils due, in no small part, to the dedication and ability of the staff in the Department. Biology teaching takes place in a suite of well-resourced laboratories which are linked to the school network, and each classroom has an interactive whiteboard with data projector. The Department is ably supported by a well-qualified Laboratory Technician and a Lower School Science Technician. Reprographics are centrally administered and a full-time secretary to the Common Room is available to help in these areas.



The subject is compulsory up to the Fifth Form (Year 11) when all pupils take the IGCSE examination (Edexcel). A large number of pupils – between a third and a half of the year group – go on to study Biology to A Level (OCR).

The department achieves outstanding results in public examinations. In 2017, we



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achieved 94% A* at IGCSE (99% achieved A*-A). At A level 41% of grades were at A* and 81% of grades were A*-A. Each year four to six Sixth Form pupils gain gold certificates in the Biology Olympiad, and another 15-20 gain silver and bronze.

Biology in the curriculum

Second and Third form (Years 7 and 8)

Biology is taught as a separate science from the Second Form onwards. The department has devised a bespoke course which links to the National Curriculum but also takes time to explore some of the more interesting and exciting topics not generally covered at this level including behaviour and microbiology. There is also a particular focus on skill development and practical work at this level which supports future success at IGCSE and A level.

Lower Fourth, Upper Fourth and Fifth Form (Years 9, 10 and 11)

The IGCSE (Edexcel) begins in Lower Fourth. It is a linear course with no coursework and a final formal assessment at the end of the Fifth Form. The course takes three years to complete and provides the flexibility to explore the concepts fully, spending time on the practical elements in order to provide comprehensive preparation for the study of the subject at A-Level. The pupils are assessed regularly using internally designed tests which encourage them fully to explore their understanding of the topics covered.

Sixth Form (Years 12-13)

For A-Level the department follows the OCR specification. It is a wide-ranging course with practical elements embedded throughout. Pupils sit all examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth with the practical assessment reported separately.

As well as teaching far beyond the confines of the syllabus, the Department runs a weekly Journal Club and regularly hosts outside lecturers who come to school to speak to students on a variety of topics. We are committed to providing the broadest possible education, incorporating trips, such as a Marine Biology trip to the Florida Keys and a Safari to South Africa, as well as visits and competitions wherever possible. There is a bespoke programme of classes and speakers for pupils preparing for the BMAT and applications to study medicine. Many Sixth Formers choose Biology or a science-related subject for Waynflete Studies, the school's unique extended project, taught in conjunction with members of the university, and a very encouraging number of pupils go on to study Biology and related subjects at leading universities.



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INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS 7 - 18 AND SIXTH FORM GIRLS

The Candidate

This will be a contract for the duration of one calendar year from January 2019 to January 2020. The successful candidate will be a well-qualified Biologist who will be prepared to take a share of the teaching of the subject at all levels. Members of the Department report to the Head of Department, and ultimately to the Master, via the Deputy Head (Academic).

Candidates short-listed for interview may be asked to teach an observed lesson when they come to the school. They will also be required to bring with them the necessary ID documentation and degree certificate(s), all of which must be originals. Further information on the observed lesson and documentation required will be provided with the invitation to interview.

In a lively day school, a willingness to contribute to other areas of school life, whether in the pastoral system, in games, music, drama, CCF or other activities, is always advantageous.



Benefits

MCS currently has its own salary scale, and salaries are substantially more generous than those in the maintained sector; there is also a relocation allowance on a sliding scale, by agreement with the Bursar, and dependent on current location. The school offers private medical cover and subscribes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme, in which all teaching staff are auto enrolled – there is, of course, an opt out, should this be preferred. School fee remission for full time staff sons (from Junior through to Sixth Form) and staff daughters (Sixth Form) who pass entrance tests for the school is currently 50%.

In addition, Headington Girls School currently allows full time staff daughters who pass entrance tests for the school a 20% remission. (Headington fee remission is only available to staff with an FTE of 50% or over). In recent years the school has introduced its own Waynflete Teaching Certificate scheme and successful candidates without a formal PGCE, who meet the necessary criteria, may be invited to join this scheme, which can lead to qualified teacher status. Please note that MCS is an inner-city school, with limited parking. Candidates who have been offered a post will be invited to make representations in the preceding Trinity Term to the Usher (Senior Deputy Head) for a parking space. Free lunches are available in term-time when working.

