

George Watson's College wishes to appoint a Part Time or Probationary Teacher of Computing Science from August 2018. The vacancy represents an opportunity for an outstanding practitioner to make a high profile contribution to the success of one of Scotland's leading schools.

THE SCHOOL

George Watson's College is one of the country's best co-educational independent day schools. Founded in 1741 by a local merchant concerned for the education of young minds, it fulfils to this day the role intended by its founder. Despite its size, everyone remarks that it has a small-school 'feel': the close-knit and friendly relationships amongst all its constituents are a hallmark of the School. Its motto – *ex corde caritas* (Love from the Heart) – is central to its values as it seeks to sustain what is described as 'The Watson's Family'.

This tangible sense of togetherness is significantly enhanced by everyone being on one purpose-built site, which is located in the attractive residential district of Morningside, to the South West of the centre of Edinburgh. Edinburgh itself is the second strongest city economy in the UK, outside of London, with the highest percentage of graduates and professionally qualified adults in the UK and over 25% of school age children attending fee-paying schools. Watson's is proud of its independent status and, whilst remaining true to its Scottish roots, seeks to sustain and develop an international perspective. The curriculum is adapting to the innovations inherent in Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence and the new Scottish National Qualifications. Consideration may also be given to pupils wishing to take the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme.

The School welcomes a wide range of academic ability, and has very high academic standards, with 90% of pupils going on to Higher Education and a large proportion of pupils achieving outstanding success. Watson's also has excellent facilities, and offers a huge range of courses as well as extra-curricular activities. In addition, it has particular strengths in Sport, Music, Drama, Outdoor Education, Technology and in Support for Learning. The School is very well resourced with a campus-wide IT network.

The Principal, Melvyn Roffe, took up his post in 2014. Leadership of the Senior School is delegated to Gordon Boyd, Head of the Senior School, and the Senior School Leadership Team, including four Deputy Headteachers. A parallel structure exists in the Junior School.

The Senior School

Approximately two-thirds of pupils in the Senior School have progressed there from the Junior School. On arrival, they have a carefully worked out induction programme which includes a residential experience together in the first term.

In First and Second Year, a diverse and stimulating timetable balances challenging academic progression with a variety of learning experiences. Pupils study many of their subjects in their form classes but are set in English and Mathematics. This enables them to progress at a pace that provides the appropriate level of challenge and provides them with an opportunity to mix with the rest of their year group.

From Second Year, pupils discuss their personal targets and study options with teachers, through to their key certificate examinations, and we ensure that they choose subjects and levels that match their abilities and aspirations.

At Watson's we are proud of the exceptionally broad range of certificate courses we offer. Available at various levels of certification within the national qualifications framework, our extensive provision includes subjects across the spectrum of arts, sciences and social sciences, with a notably wide selection of languages, including Mandarin Chinese.

It is important that we prepare pupils for the increased independence they will require after school. A programme of study skills encourages independent thought and enquiry. Throughout their time at Watson's, pupils make confident use of our outstanding IT facilities and our Library.

Computing Science Department details

Teaching is carried out in three Computer Suites in the main Senior School building. The classrooms were recently upgraded and are well-appointed with high-spec iMacs. The generous department office is also equipped with iMacs as well as boasting plenty of desktop workspace. In addition to the computers used to deliver the curriculum, pupils also have access to a variety of kit including 3D-Printer building, high-spec PC building, Lego Mindstorms, Codebugs, Raspberry Pis and Arduinos.

There are currently three full time experienced teachers in the department. We deliver a balanced course of Computing Science and IT skills to S1 and S2. From S3 onwards, pupils have the option to specialise and follow the SQA Certification route from National 5 to Advanced Higher in Computing Science. A core IT skills module is also offered in S3.

The Department's Philosophy and Aims

Through the courses we teach in S1 and S2, it is the Department's aim to provide our pupils with an insight into the world of Computer Science, as well continuing to develop their core IT skills. Computer Science is at the heart of our S1/S2 programme: pupils are taught the principles of logical and computational thinking, encouraged to use creativity and ambition, and, ultimately, how to use the skills learned to complete projects on each topic studied. Building on this knowledge and

understanding, we aim to equip pupils with the skills to create programs, applications, websites, databases and a range of multimedia solutions. Our programme also endeavours to ensure that pupils become more digitally literate – able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology – at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.

Courses

In S1 and S2, pupils currently study:

- Digital Photo Editing
- The Internet / World Wide Web
- Microbit Programming
- Scratch Programming
- HTML Website Design and Development
- Database Design and Development
- Building multimedia solutions including video editing and animation

In S3 and S4, pupils have the opportunity to study:

- National 5 Computing Science
- Core IT skills

In S5 and S6, pupils have the opportunity to study:

- Higher Computing Science
- Advanced Higher Computing Science
- Digital Passport

The Department has seen steady growth over the last few sessions with uptake in certificate classes at an all-time high. It is our belief that the stimulating platform provided in S1 and S2 is encouraging more and more pupils to have an interest in Computing Science. This desire to learn more, and the accompanying enthusiasm, has not only resulted in increased uptake, but also excellent SQA examination results.

Outside of the formal timetable, the Department has a number of pupils who regularly attend at lunchtime and after school to work on projects. We are keen to give all our pupils opportunities to be involved in exciting and modern Computing Science projects. Pupils in the Department also have the opportunity to attend day trips such as IT4U and the Christmas Cyber Lectures.

The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to all areas of the Department and the School, and be part of the existing enthusiastic team.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The person appointed will:

The successful candidate will:

- be a classroom teacher who is registered (or eligible for registration) with the General Teaching Council for Scotland
- be a dynamic and creative teacher
- have excellent teaching, administration, organisation and course planning skills
- experience of programming (software/web/databases)
- be prepared to contribute to the department's extra-curricular activities

JOB SPECIFICATION

Line Management

A Teacher of Computing Science is accountable directly to the Head of Computing Science.

General Responsibilities

It is expected that the person appointed will contribute effectively in maintaining the ethos of high expectation and enthusiasm throughout the department and in the classroom.

The person appointed will be responsible for the learning and teaching of classes employing effective pedagogy, using their skill and experience to enable pupils to become self-regulated and successful learners in achieving their potential in the subject to the full.

They will abide by the Code of Conduct for Staff at George Watson's College.

A contribution to the wider life of the School is an expectation of all staff.

Specific Responsibilities

The person appointed will:

- maintain the Standard for Full GTCS registration. They will be required to undertake relevant CPD, be observed and write up all activities in the GTCS Profile
- work effectively as a member of the department to facilitate outstanding teaching and learning and ensure pupils are properly prepared for examinations
- set high expectations for all pupils, to deepen their knowledge and understanding to maximize achievement
- prepare and provide activities that are appropriate to each year group and suitable for learners' needs
- be confident of their ability to work and respond to the needs of pupils and inspire the next generation of young Computer Scientists
- develop new resources and course materials, as directed by and/or in collaboration with the other staff in the department

- assess, record and report on work of pupils as required by the School, ensuring that assessments are punctual, meaningful and informative
- attend parent evenings and communicate with parents whenever necessary and contribute effectively and positively to the corporate life and welfare of the School
- act as a Form Teacher and/or Tutor as required, carrying out the administrative, pastoral and advisory responsibilities of these roles.

Additional Responsibilities

The Teacher of Computing Science should also be willing to undertake such other responsibilities as the Head of Department may from time to time reasonably require.

REMUNERATION

Teaching staff at George Watson's College are paid at a level which is currently 8% higher than the Scottish Teachers' Pay Scales. The salary is pensionable under the Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme.

DISCLOSURE SCOTLAND - PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS SCHEME

All staff must be prepared to undergo screening to confirm their suitability to work with children and young people.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT / PROFESSIONAL REVIEW

All staff are required to participate in appropriate programmes of continuing professional development and undergo professional review as set out in the School's policy.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please send a letter of application of not more than 800 words giving us more information about you and why you would like the role, addressed to Mr Gordon Boyd, Head of Senior School. The letter, completed application form and diversity monitoring form must reach Jane Robinson, Head of Human Resources by email (vacancies@gwc.org.uk) no later than noon on 1 May 2018.

Any specific questions relating to the advertised post can be put directly to Mr David Proudfoot, Head of Department at d.proudfoot@gwc.org.uk

Candidates called for interview will be asked to teach a lesson as part of the selection process.

If you require more information about the School, please visit our school website.

Closing date noon on 1 May 2018.

Interviews will take place on Thursday 10 May 2018.