

# SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

## JOB DESCRIPTION



### Appointment of Teacher of Chemistry from September 2018







## The School

Founded in 1432, Sevenoaks enjoys a global reputation as a centre of academic excellence and a flagship school for the International Baccalaureate. A co-educational day and boarding school, it offers a stimulating, intellectually demanding and balanced education for pupils from the age of 11 to 18.

Inspiring facilities, together with expert, enthusiastic and imaginative teaching, provide rich opportunities for students participating in lessons, and a wide variety of sports and the performing arts.

The school's international make-up and outlook promote the principles of tolerance and open-mindedness. About 350 pupils board in the seven boarding houses, and students originate from some 40 countries worldwide.

In 2013 the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) awarded Sevenoaks School the rare accolade of 'Exceptional' for its students' achievement. In the new style inspection in 2017 pupils' achievement and personal development were judged excellent, the highest grades. Sevenoaks was also the highest performing fully co-educational school, and the one with the largest cohort, in *The Sunday Times* Parent Power's top 50 fee-paying schools for the IB in 2015. In 2017 we were, for the second time in 10 years, awarded *The Sunday Times* Independent School of the Year for 2018.

This excellence is achieved by bright, motivated students, inspired by highly qualified and dedicated teachers in well-resourced classrooms. The school has over 150 teaching staff, well supported by a large number of ancillary staff. A professional pastoral team of specialist tutors, boarding house staff and year heads give care and guidance, promoting student happiness. The mutual respect shared by students and staff generates a harmonious and purposeful atmosphere.

Every pupil is encouraged to be curious, creative, critically aware, and to develop his or her passion and talent to the full. Life is fast-paced, dynamic, and expectations are high. At the same time, the school seeks to cultivate in its pupils the habit of reflecting on their learning, and on how they contribute to society more broadly. Ambitious and principled, confident and compassionate, our pupils are prepared for leadership and teamwork in the wider world.

Regular assemblies, tutor group meetings and a programme of talks help the social and emotional understanding in our pupils, and a long tradition of voluntary service and local and international charity projects advances a core set of values across the student body.

## The Campus

The school is situated in the Kent market town



of Sevenoaks, and has a prime position at the top of the High Street. The 100-acre site, which includes a number of listed buildings, is beautifully landscaped and adjoins the medieval deer park of Knole. London is only a 30-minute train journey away. Gatwick International Airport is also only 30 minutes away, and there are good transport links to other London airports and the Channel Tunnel.

The school's first-class resources and facilities include a superb sports centre (The Sennocke Centre) opened in 2005. A state-of-the-art performing arts centre (The Space), which provides four outstanding venues for music and drama, was opened in 2010. The next major projects currently underway are a Science & Technology Centre and a Sixth Form Global Study Centre, which the school plans to open in 2018, and new boarding accommodation which should be ready for occupation by 2019.

## Teaching at Sevenoaks School

We want all our pupils to enjoy their subjects, to be inspired by their teachers and to become independent, lifelong learners. We have an exceptionally lively, talented and committed staff body. Teachers are enthusiastic and well-qualified graduates. We welcome applications from experienced teachers and newly-qualified teachers but can also provide training including PGCE for those new to the profession. All new staff undertake a comprehensive induction programme. Sevenoaks is committed

to supporting its staff with training and professional development tailored to staff needs and interests.

Teachers at Sevenoaks are innovative and forward-thinking and over 60 staff are involved in the Institutes of Teaching & Learning, Higher Education & Professional Insight, and Service & Social Entrepreneurship, shaping further development and initiatives for students and staff alike.

## Curriculum

All of the 400-plus Sixth Form students pursue the International Baccalaureate Diploma, a programme the school has delivered for nearly 40 years. The Diploma represents, in the school's view, the best preparation for university and for work in a world of global competition. Even more important, it genuinely develops a rich inner life in our students, opening their minds to connections and possibilities within and across the subject disciplines.

It is no surprise that our students leave Sevenoaks to study a wide range of courses in the UK and around the world. All 210 leaving students each year progress to the world's top universities, including up to 25% to Oxford and Cambridge, and 25 or more students to leading US and international universities. They do so with an enlarged capacity for independent thought and intellectual risk-taking, a strong appetite





for learning, and equipped with the skills and personal qualities conducive to a happy and successful life.

In order to support our ethos and aims, we have developed a number of Sevenoaks School Certificate courses, which students take instead of GCSEs, in English Literature, the Expressive Arts and Technology. The SSCs (which are fully recognised by UCAS) give teachers the independence and creative scope to shape a richly satisfying curriculum. In Years 9-11 all students take courses in critical thinking – *Critical Perspectives* and *Ten Ideas That Changed the World* – developed by the school.

## The Chemistry Department

The Chemistry department forms a key part of the Science and Technology faculty. Sevenoaks is virtually unique in the UK in that all 1040 students study at least one science for the entirety of their secondary education – three to Year 11 and at least one in the Sixth Form. At present there are nine full-time and one part-time chemists in the department, who are well-served by three very knowledgeable and helpful laboratory technicians. The new Science and Technology Centre will have 20 laboratories for use by the science departments, as well as two advanced project laboratories and a data logging suite. Technology will have four teaching spaces, as well as two areas two areas in which to undertake advanced projects. In addition to the teaching

spaces, students will have access to break out areas located adjacent to the departments. Seven of the laboratories have been allocated to the Chemistry department and they will also make use of the science advanced project laboratories. It is intended that each laboratory will be fitted with the latest interactive whiteboards, as well as other teaching aids. The department is extremely well equipped with a large amount of laboratory glassware and high specification apparatus such as analytical balances and a gas chromatograph, data-logging hardware and software, and enjoys the resources to carry out a large range of practical investigations.

There is a collaborative spirit within the department, and its members' wide range of specialised interests gives it real strength. Ideas, resources and responsibilities are shared. The Head of Department delegates specific responsibilities to members of the department and encourages individual creativity and initiative.

All pupils entering the school at 11+ or 13+ are taught the three sciences by subject specialists and currently all students are entered for the Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry Examination.

Chemistry is a popular Sixth Form choice for girls and boys, and typically there will be up to twelve sets (up to about 130 pupils) studying the International Baccalaureate course at either Standard or Higher Level in each of the two years. The content of the International Baccalaureate





course is broadly similar to that of the A level course.

The standard of teaching and learning in Chemistry in the Sixth Form is high. Many students achieve the top grade at IB level; the average grade at Higher Level last year was 6.34, out of a possible maximum of 7. Each year many go on to study Natural Sciences or Medicine at Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial and other leading universities. Our students enjoy success in the Chemistry Olympiad and the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge; individually, students obtained 33 coloured certificates in the Chemistry Olympiad and 25 coloured certificates in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. In recent years, teams of Sevenoaks students won the Kent Chemistry Challenge, finished second in the SE region in the same competition, were placed in the top half of schools nationwide in the Top of the Bench competition and ended third in the SE region Schools Analyst competition.

## The Post

We seek to appoint an enthusiastic and able graduate to teach full-time from September 2018. Love of the subject and an ability to convey this to students is essential. The successful candidate will be willing and able to teach across the year groups and ability range. She or he will work well with a forward thinking and dynamic team. We welcome applications from teachers new to the profession as well as those with

teaching experience. The opportunity to train for PGCE may be available. Both the Chemistry department and the Science Faculty offer a range of activities beyond the classroom, to which all members of the department are expected to contribute. A commitment to excellent pastoral care, enriching co-curricular and outreach activities is also expected.

## Information for applicants

Sevenoaks School has its own generous salary scale. Accommodation or relocation expenses may be available, and fee discounts for the children of members of staff are available (subject to the usual entry requirements). Further information about the school can be obtained from the school's extensive website: <https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/home>, including more about working at Sevenoaks <https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/about-us/vacancies/working-at-sevenoaks>

Applicants should complete the application form in full. Guidance for completion of the form is downloadable from our website. Note that Part 6 must show a complete history of employment, and should continue on a separate sheet of the application form if necessary. Please submit the completed application form, covering letter and CV by post to:



The Personnel Department  
Sevenoaks School  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 1HU

Tel: 01732 467740; email: [pa@sevenoaksschool.org](mailto:pa@sevenoaksschool.org).

Applications should be submitted by midday on  
**Wednesday 7 March 2018.**

The school retains the right to interview suitable applicants and appoint before the deadline.

The post holder has a responsibility to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young persons for whom he or she is responsible, or with whom he or she comes into contact, and will adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's Child Protection Policy Statement 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, he or she must report any concerns to the school's Designated Child Protection Coordinator or to the Head.