

Spanish Language Assistant (Fixed-Term, Full-Time, Term-Time only)

Languages Faculty

Whitgift is one of Britain's leading independent boarding and day schools for boys aged between 10 and 18 years, with approximately 1460 pupils and 106 boarding or flexi-boarding pupils. It was founded in 1596 by Elizabeth I's last Archbishop of Canterbury, John Whitgift, and is the oldest school in Croydon. Whitgift enjoys facilities of outstanding quality, amongst the best available nationally, in a beautiful parkland estate in South Croydon.

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a Spanish speaker to join our vibrant and dynamic Spanish Department as a full-time Spanish Language Assistant from September 2018. The Languages Faculty at Whitgift is one of the largest in the country, comprising eight languages. In addition to Spanish, the other languages taught at the School are French, Mandarin, Japanese, German, Italian, Latin and Ancient Greek. There are six Spanish teachers in the Department, and Spanish is taught from Year 7. Many pupils take IGCSE Spanish, and continue their studies in the Sixth Form, where we offer both IB and Pre-U. We offer a wide co-curricular provision, and students have the opportunity to take part in Exchanges to Zaragoza and Valencia, as well as a Sixth Form trip (this year we visited Bilbao).

OUTLINE OF POST:

As a full-time language assistant, the successful candidate will be pro-active and enthusiastic about promoting Spanish across the School. He or she will play an important role in preparing students for examinations, working with students in small groups and assisting teachers in the classroom. He or she will be able to produce resources and lead enjoyable discussions that challenge students while simultaneously building their confidence and ability to converse in both a natural and articulate manner. In addition to preparing resources for his or her own teaching, the successful candidate will work with the Head of Spanish to assist in the production of high quality and innovative resources to support classroom teaching. A high level of accuracy in both spoken and written Spanish and English will be essential, and the ideal candidate will excel in encouraging our students to engage with current Hispanic issues, drawing inspiration from the media and other authentic sources. Flexibility and a willingness to engage with the broader life of the school is a prerequisite. An ability to teach Spanish literature would be an advantage.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Working with small groups of pupils in Year 11 and above
- Preparing them for the oral component of public examinations
- Provide appropriate support for native Spanish pupils including teaching literary analysis and advanced essay-writing skills
- Producing appropriate resources to support the teachers within the department
- Commitment to the broader life of the School is also essential.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

To carry out the duties and responsibilities of the post, in accordance with the School's Health and Safety Policy and relevant Health and Safety Legislation.

The Whitgift Foundation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young and elderly people in their care and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

To ensure that all services within the areas of responsibility are provided in accordance with the School's commitment to high quality service provision.

This job description will be reviewed annually and may be subject to amendment or modification at any time after consultation with the post holder. It is not a comprehensive statement of procedures and tasks but sets out the main expectations of the School in relation to the post holder's professional responsibilities and duties.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

General:

- Excellent knowledge of the Spanish Language is essential, ideally a fluent Spanish speaker
- Proactive and enthusiastic about promoting Spanish across the School
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Good command of the English Language
- Excellent administrative skills
- Confident and well-organized
- Ability to meet changing deadlines and work under pressure
- Ability to work independently and also as part of a team
- Flexibility and co-operation
- Good working knowledge of Microsoft Office

Qualifications:

- Educated to 'A' level or degree level (or equivalent)
- Knowledge of another language would be desirable but not essential

The Faculty

The Whitgift Languages Faculty is one of the largest and most vibrant language faculties in the UK with thirty-one teachers, eight assistants and a faculty administrator. Several classrooms on one of the main corridors of the school are dedicated as language teaching rooms and our comfortable offices, a thirty-station language laboratory, 5 assistant rooms and a dedicated Sixth Form computer room are all on a perpendicular corridor enabling that part of the school to have a genuinely international and excitingly language-focused atmosphere.

Japanese, Spanish, German, French, Mandarin Chinese and Latin are taught from Year 7 throughout the school with Classical Greek available from Year 9. All of these languages are offered as IGCSE, A Level and IB options. Seven Heads of Department work together under the Head of Faculty: Classics, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish.

Our Year 7 options are unique in that all pupils study three very different languages. They must choose one Oriental language (Japanese or Chinese), one Romance language (French or Spanish) and one inflected language (German or Latin). From Year 8 they continue with two of those three languages and are encouraged to take both as IGCSE options although they may in some cases be allowed to take only one language at IGCSE.

The Faculty prides itself on the range and quality of its exchanges and trips. All are organised in-house with the assistance of our Faculty Administrator. These include long-standing exchanges to Tokyo, Albertville, Caen, Munich, Valencia, Salzgitter, Vicenza, Zaragoza, Nuremberg and Beijing as well as trips to such cities as Dresden, Biarritz, Granada, Florence, Berlin, Shanghai and Paris.

We have a very international intake and pride ourselves on tailoring language provision to the diverse needs of our pupils. We therefore have a large number of pupils who are supported in their language-learning off-timetable. We encourage pupils in their learning of all languages, even those which we do not teach, and aim to support them in formal accreditation of their skills wherever possible. Around a hundred pupils board at Whitgift, around two-thirds of whom come from abroad, which gives us the opportunity to encounter unusual languages and also to teach languages at an unusually high level - we offer all our languages as Language A (native speaker) within the IB for example.

The Faculty is energetic, forward-thinking and happy. Textbook usage is minimal and a focus is placed on developing innovative, imaginative teaching strategies which challenge and stimulate our pupils. Flexibility, passion, academic rigour and the ability to inspire are amongst the key words which would characterise our ethos. We encourage a plethora of teaching styles and enjoy learning from one another. Strong emphasis is placed on the teaching of grammar, on encouraging pupil use of target language and adapting to the needs of individual pupils.

FURTHER INFORMATION

STAFF BENEFITS

All of our staff benefit from a competitive remuneration package, including:

- 25 days' holiday pay per year (pro rata for part-time positions)
- Membership of a generous money purchase pension scheme for all support staff which includes 3 x salary life assurance cover
- Free access to an Employee discount Club, which offers discounted rates on a range of products and services, including insurance, holidays and travel, fashion and retail
- Discounted school fees for permanent staff working at, or for, the Foundation Schools
- Discounted off-peak membership at our onsite gym, Nuffield Health
- Membership of the Simply Health Cash Plan Scheme, which gives financial support towards the cost of optical, dental and medical costs as well as a free 24 hour advice line for all staff
- A range of family-friendly benefits including enhanced maternity pay and childcare vouchers
- Season ticket loan
- Onsite parking
- Lunch is available onsite during term time

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

This position is offered initially as a fixed-term, term-time only contract from 1 September 2018 to 4 July 2019, with possible extension in September 2018 for a further academic year (dependant on student uptake of the subject). The Spanish Language Assistant will work 5 days per week, term time only. The hours are 8.30am to 4.30pm (35 hours per week) with a one-hour unpaid lunch break. There will occasionally be a requirement for some flexibility with start and finish times to meet the needs of the department.

The salary for the position will be Point 18 on the Whitgift Foundation Support Salary Scale (substantially above national scale) which is £24,683.00 per annum (full-time, full-year). This equates to £11.87 per hour or £415.45 per week, term-time only plus holiday pay pro rata to the term of the contract. These figures include the annual increase effective 1 September 2018. Salary payments are made in 11 equal monthly instalments (September to June)

Assistance is offered towards removal expenses etc., up to £1,000 in total.

We welcome applications from all parts of our community as we aspire to attract staff that matches the social and cultural diversity of our student intake.

To apply, please visit www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies. For any queries, please telephone Sam Thater on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail him at stt@whitgift.co.uk.

Applications will be reviewed on a daily basis and we invite interested candidates to apply as soon as possible.

Closing date is midnight on 17th June. Interviews will be during week commencing 18th June 2018.

As a result of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, employers now have to verify that new recruits who are not British Nationals are eligible to work in this country. Therefore any applicant who is offered an interview will be asked to provide official documentation to verify their ID, address and right to work in the UK. It is also normal practice for the School to ask for original qualifications and professional membership documents as detailed on their application.

Whitgift School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people, and applicants must be willing to undergo safeguarding and child protection screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service.

June 2018