



Teacher of Science

September 2018

Information for Candidates

Introduction

This document will give you an idea of the vacancy. We wish to appoint someone who is looking to make a valuable contribution to the Science department and the wider school. The person appointed will be passionate about teaching and learning as a whole as well as their specialist subject. The ability to teach Chemistry or Physics at GCSE and A Level is desirable but not essential. The most important thing is that we appoint the best candidate.

The School

Vyners is a well-established and heavily over-subscribed school with a reputation for high standards of behaviour and attainment. Our core values of Community, Aspiration, Respect and Endeavour underpin everything we do as does our absolute commitment to ensuring our students get a better deal here than they would in any other school in the country.

It was built in 1959 as a four form entry mixed grammar school. In 1977 it became comprehensive and expanded to five forms of entry and in 1996 expanded again to take six forms of entry. In 1991 the school became grant maintained and in 1999 a Foundation School. Specialist College Status in **Mathematics and Computing** was obtained from September 2003. The school converted to academy status on 1st November 2011, a move which allows us greater financial freedom and security, as well as giving us the opportunity to continue to push the boundaries of excellence. Since March 2015 the school has been the lead school in the **Vyners Learning Trust** which also includes a local primary school. The current school roll is **1154 with 225 in the Sixth Form**. Our standard admission number is 180 and we are a six form entry school with a significant number of families wanting to send their children to Vyners to be educated.

Despite being a relatively small site, the school has developed some impressive facilities; a large sports hall, extensive ICT facilities and specialist teaching areas. Classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboard technology and the school network is constantly upgraded. We have invested over £1,000,000 improving the learning environment over the past four years and have exciting plans for the future.

The school was graded satisfactory by Ofsted on two consecutive visits, most recently in April 2012. They visited the school again in December 2013, agreeing fully with the school's self-evaluation, grading us as **Good** overall with **Outstanding** judgements for Behaviour and Safety and Leadership and Management. *"Leaders at all levels including student leaders are highly ambitious for their school. Plans for improvement are systematic and rigorous. Everyone works together to make sure that teaching and achievement improve rapidly."* The school achieved record examination results in 2017. This meant that our headline figure was 84%, a 4% rise on 2016 and a 10% improvement since 2013. We are very proud of our A Level results with nearly a third of all grades A* - A and 55% A* - B grades. We firmly believe that we can build on this success again this year.



Location

The School is situated close to the 'village' of Ickenham in a very pleasant residential area on the edge of the Green Belt. Although only thirty minutes or so from the centre of London by underground, access to the countryside is equally quick via the M40, M25 or M4. The School itself is well situated on a residential road, surrounded by many mature trees, which provides a pleasant atmosphere for both work and leisure.

Teaching and Learning

The current agenda and aspirations for the school are challenging and motivating as we move towards Outstanding. We continue to develop our curriculum to meet the needs of the learners and to improve the skills of our staff to deliver this curriculum. To support this work the whole school community is committed to improving teaching strategies and understanding better how students learn. We know that effective learning cannot be left to chance; we have to refine and change our approaches if we want to make real and lasting improvements. We recognise the need to prepare students for the 21st century and make extensive use of new technologies (mobile technology, Web 2.0 tools) and are striving to develop more independent learners. Google Classroom is embedded in the school as a tool to support learning. Our key focus this year is '60 Minutes Matters', which promotes engagement with research and evidence to promote classroom excellence.

Developing and training Middle Leaders in the effective use of data and helping them to develop a range of different teaching strategies within their teams have been priorities. Each year we deliver significant staff development, including our annual Staff Conference, which has a focus on developing specific aspects of teaching and learning. The theme of our conference in 2016-17 was developing a 'Growth Mindset' in our staff and students.

The Staff

Staff morale at Vyners is high, supported by a positive working environment and reviewed through staff surveys. The school puts a great deal of time and resources into training and developing its staff. Appraisal is focused on school improvement, professional development and well-being. Staff meetings encourage high levels of discussion and feedback and some staff are involved in one of our Teaching and Learning bursaries to develop and recommend major changes to whole school policy. Professional development is run every Tuesday after school, and a 'Teaching and Learning Community' meets on Wednesday mornings to develop knowledge and understanding of pedagogy and share good practice. Many staff give freely of their time to run numerous lunchtime and after school activities.

The Students

Central to everything which happens at Vyners are our students. Staff seek to ensure that every young person feels valued and listened to. Relationships between staff and students at Vyners are excellent; raised voices are seldom heard and students appreciate the fact that they are encouraged to express and discuss their views. The Student Council plays an important role in the development of policy at Vyners. Students take part in the development of the school vision and values and all applicants for teaching posts are interviewed by a student panel.



The Science Department

The Curriculum

Science is taught in mixed ability groups in Year 7 and 8 and then in sets in Years 9 – 11. Currently in Years 7, 8 and 9 Science is taught in modules. From January in year 9 we begin the GCSE course. We have established electronic schemes of work across KS3, KS4 and KS5. In Year 11 there are 7 sets, with the top sets taking separate Sciences and sets 4 – 7 taking Combined Trilogy. The separate Sciences course is part of the option choices.

At Key Stage 5, we have well established and popular courses at AS/A2 level for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This year, there are 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics groups in Year 12, and 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics groups in Year 13. Students taking Science A Levels at Vyners have gone on to study Pure Sciences, Medicine and Engineering at top universities.

The department is constantly looking to further improve the achievement of all our students. The team is enthusiastic and willing to give freely of their time to offer extra help and support through intervention, revision classes and individual assistance. We are all very keen to raise the profile of Science across Vyners and will be planning many activities for National Science Week.

The Science qualifications we offer currently are:

Level	Course	Board
GCSE	Combined Trilogy Higher/Foundation	AQA
GCSE	Separate Sciences	
	Biology	AQA
	Chemistry	AQA
	Physics	AQA
AS/A2	Biology	Edexcel
	Chemistry	Edexcel
	Physics	AQA

Results

KS4: GCSE	2014/2015		2015/2016		2016/2017	
% of entry	A* - C	A* - G	A* - C	A* - G	A* - C	A* - G
Core Science	63	99	66	100	79	100
Add Science	46	99	71	100	75	100
Biology	100	100	86	100	99	100
Chemistry	97	100	95	100	97	100
Physics	95	100	97	100	99	100



	2014/2015		2015/2016		2016/2017	
KS5: A2						
% of entry	A* - C	A* - E	A* - C	A* - E	A* - C	A* - E
Biology	63	94	59	100	60	100
Chemistry	60	100	85	100	67	100
Physics	71	100	86	100	66	94

Staffing

The structure of the department from September 2015 consists of Subject Leader, 2 Assistant Subject Leaders in charge of KS3 and KS5 and 7 specialist teachers – at present this consists of 3 Biology, 3 Chemistry and 4 Physics subject specialists. The Science department comprises an excellent team of graduates most of whom are also A-level specialists. We have an excellent team of 4 technicians, led by a very experienced senior technician.

Facilities

- The Department has 9 fully equipped Science laboratories.
- There are 4 preparation rooms.
- Every science teacher has access to a wide range of software, data loggers and practical equipment.
- Every laboratory has an interactive SMART board and access to chrome books.
- All students are provided with a text book. We use the Collins text book in Years 7 and 8.
- Years 9 – 11 use Collins Connect online text books.
- All A-level groups have appropriate text books to match their courses.