

JOB INFORMATION

HEAD OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES & PHILOSOPHY

RHS is looking to appoint a highly capable and enthusiastic graduate to the post of Head of Religious Studies and Philosophy with effect from September 2018. The appointee will be an engaging teacher with a proven track record of high outcomes for pupils. It is anticipated that they will have experience of teaching Religious Studies from Year 7 to 13 and will have previously contributed to curriculum design. He/she will be expected to give the department dynamic and creative leadership, and will have the ability to motivate and support colleagues. This is an exciting opportunity for a Religious Studies and/or Philosophy teacher to progress to running a department or for an existing Head of Department to take on a new role with a successful department.

Responsibilities of the Head of Religious Studies and Philosophy are included in the generic Head of Department job description which should be read in conjunction with the Teacher job description, both of which are attached. The Head of Religious Studies and Philosophy reports to the Deputy Head (Academic).

THE SCHOOL

The Royal Hospital School (RHS) is an HMC co-educational boarding and day school for approximately 750 pupils aged 11-18. The School occupies a magnificent 200 acre site in the Suffolk countryside just south of Ipswich.

The School selects pupils from a reasonably broad ability range and for this reason we focus on achieving a positive value added for all our pupils. Applications for places at RHS are extremely healthy and this year our pupil numbers are the highest on record.

The Royal Hospital School aims to provide academic excellence with an outstanding range of cultural and sporting opportunities. This is strongly backed up by first-class pastoral care and a commitment to leadership, service and spiritual awareness. We have an outstanding campus which provides a safe and secure environment. We have a talented and dedicated staff who believe in maximising each child's potential, fuelling their aspirations, firing their imagination and encouraging independence of thought. We seek to provide pupils with the skills and confidence to navigate their own lives and to think about where they will be at 25.

Recently the School undertook the development of the internal sporting facilities including a new strength and conditioning room, a fitness suite, dance and martial arts studio and the addition of a climbing wall in a refurbished sports hall. Further development of the School estate and the provision of top quality facilities for the education of our pupils remains a priority. The School has embarked upon a rolling programme of classroom refurbishment and, thanks to the generosity of our trustees, Greenwich Hospital, a £400,000 Wi-Fi programme has facilitated wireless internet access across the whole school campus since 2013. All members of the teaching staff and all pupils have iPads as part of the School's mobile learning initiative.

MISSION AND AIMS

Our Mission is to understand each young person's strengths, to help them to make the right choices at the right time, navigating through their critical, formative years and ensuring their education becomes the foundation for their happiness and success.

Aims

The aims of the Royal Hospital School are:

- to develop intellectual curiosity and academic confidence;
- to enable pupils to grow into the person they wish to become, fulfilling their potential and prepared for life after school;
- to inspire leadership, adventure and self-discovery;
- to foster creativity and imagination;
- to provide a secure and nurturing community which promotes wellbeing, fitness and healthy competition;
- to instill the values of service, loyalty and commitment and uphold the School's unique and rich heritage;
- to cultivate a global outlook and environmental responsibility.

LAST INSPECTION

The School was inspected in January 2015 and received excellent ratings in all nine areas by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. The inspector commented:

"The School has clear aspirations for its pupils. It seeks to promote the attributes of inspiration, challenge and leadership in its pupils. Pupils are encouraged to strive for academic excellence and to endorse the values of service, loyalty and commitments whilst upholding the School's unique and rich heritage. The School encourages leadership and a sense of adventure and self-discovery. A high priority is the promotion of service both within the School and to the wider community. The School aims to foster creativity and imagination within a civilised, caring, Christian community, based on high standards of behaviour, mutual respect, trust and courtesy between staff and pupils. The School cultivates a global outlook and sense of environmental responsibility. It aims to encourage pupils to develop fitness, wellbeing and enter into healthy competition."

Candidates can read the full Report on the School's website at <http://www.royalhospitalschool.org/school-life/overview/#inspection-report>.

The regulatory compliance inspection in January 2018 found that the school was compliant in all areas.

THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

In September 2018, the Religious Studies Department will consist of 3 teaching staff which includes the Head of Department and 2 part-time teachers, one of whom is the School Chaplain. Lessons occur within the two designated departmental classrooms, both of which are situated within the main teaching block and are fully equipped for modern teaching.

All pupils study Religious Studies until the end of Year 9. In Year 7 and 8 pupils receive two Religious Studies lessons per fortnight, and cover topics including the existence of God, the Problem of Evil, and Identity in Year 7, and differences in the beliefs and practices within the historical religions of Christianity and Judaism in Year 8. In Year 9, pupils receive four lessons of Religious Studies teaching per fortnight. Here the focus is on an introduction to philosophy and the place of religion in society, encouraging pupils to develop as critical thinkers and preparing them for the GCSE course in Year

10. The department commenced delivery of the reformed OCR GCSE Religious Studies and OCR A Level Religious Studies courses as of September 2016.

The Religious Studies department is a popular one within the school. Results at both levels have been consistently strong over the last 10 years and in 2017 were over 80% A*-A (95%A*-B) at GCSE and 80% A*-B (100%A*-C) at A Level. Take up at both levels remains healthy and university applications to philosophy-based degree courses are common: the successful applicant will take a role in the mentoring of these pupils.

The department aims to deepen and develop an appreciation of the place of religion and religious thought in human civilization. The successful applicant will be expected to support the aims of the department and to help develop them in the future, and applicants should have the desire to develop the super-curricular aspects of the department by extending learning beyond the classroom.

APPLICATION PROCESS/APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

Applications should be made on the *RHS Application Form* enclosed, be accompanied by a letter (no longer than one side of A4) giving reasons for applying for the post, and be sent to Mr. Simon Lockyer, Headmaster, Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP9 2RX (Email: recruitment@royalhospitalschool.org). **(*Note that a C.V. will not be accepted in lieu of a fully completed Application Form).**

Further details of the Royal Hospital School can be found on our website: www.royalhospitalschool.org

The closing date for applications: Monday 19th March 0900
Interviews: Thursday 22nd March

RHS is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Employment is subject to satisfactory references and an Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check.