

TEACHER OF HISTORY

September 2018

Whitgift is one of Britain's leading independent day and boarding schools for boys aged between 10 and 18 years with approximately 1460 pupils and 106 boarding or flexi-boarding pupils. The School, which was founded in 1596 by Elizabeth I's last Archbishop of Canterbury, John Whitgift, is one of the oldest in Croydon and enjoys facilities of outstanding quality, amongst the best available nationally. It is set in an attractive 48 acre parkland site in South Croydon with excellent links to London, Surrey and the south coast.

The Vacancy

The Department is very busy and expectations within the School are high. The successful candidate must be someone who is confident, proactive and reflective about their teaching, has excellent communication skills, is capable of contributing positively within a team and is committed to raising attainment through excellent teaching and learning.

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and dedicated graduate who possesses a genuine passion for History alongside a capacity to share this effectively with pupils of all ages. A commitment to maintaining the high standards of the department would be expected, and there is excellent scope for an inspirational teacher to develop and apply their skills and knowledge at all levels. Involvement in the wider activities of the department would be expected, and the ability to teach Politics may be an advantage.

The position is suitable for someone who is new to teaching and looking to challenge themselves academically, newly qualified teachers or for a more experienced candidate who has the skills to enrich this already successful department. The ability to work as a team is essential and candidates will also need to have good IT skills.

The successful applicant will be expected to have the flexibility to teach across the range of student ages, abilities and examination courses, including Oxbridge preparation. We are looking to employ a team player with an energetic approach, who is keen to make a major contribution to the future development of this strong, cohesive and exciting department and who is both flexible and passionate about the study of History and/or Politics. The right person for the post will be interested in fulfilling an important role in the Department that extends beyond the classroom, and will therefore not be shy of giving appropriate energy as well as being a supportive and enthusiastic member of the team.

A proactive culture of supporting and developing talented and inspiring teachers is supported by the Senior Management Team. Training and development includes:

- regular in-house training for all teaching staff
- NQT induction programme for unqualified teachers
- School's Direct programme to support those new to the profession.

As a Boarding School, stimulating opportunities may be available for the right candidate to contribute to the pastoral care of students as a Boarding Tutor, both resident and non-resident along with a wide range of co-curricular activities.

The position reports to the Head of History.

The History Department

The vibrant, energetic and dedicated History team comprises nine full-time and two part-time graduate teachers; six members of the department hold other significant school responsibilities (including two members of the Senior Management Team); there are also two GTP teachers who enjoy sharing resources and expertise. We are a team of teachers who are passionate about our teaching and who work together and share ideas to drive the department forward. Both the School and the Department have a firm commitment to helping teachers enhance their abilities through experience and appropriate in-service training.

The History Office benefits from a wide range of shared teaching resources including textbooks and DVDs; there is also an extensive departmental library. IT is a particular focus of current development: each member of staff has their own school laptop, we employ the school network extensively to share resources, and increasing use is made of the school VLE and media server in classroom teaching.

Class sizes in the Sixth Form average at 12 students; GCSE classes are usually around 21 students and Lower School classes contain an average of 23 boys. Junior classes are taught in a dedicated classroom block, but most other History and Politics lessons are accommodated in six specialised classrooms equipped with digital projectors.

Curriculum

History is studied by all boys and is designed to install interest in students throughout the School. Our younger pupils (Year 6 & 7) course is an overview of Greek and Roman History and the boys visit Roman St. Alban's. Our pupils also study Medieval History from the Norman Conquest to the late 15th century, and there is a visit to the Tower of London. Year 8 covers the Tudors and Stuarts in the first term, moving on to study aspects of Britain's economic, social and imperial development in the 18th and 19th centuries. They have a day visit to Hampton Court.

In Year 9, the focus is on European History c.1890-1945, with the origins, course and aftermath of the two world wars forming the backbone. There is an opportunity to study World History in the 1920s and 1930s and there is also a fascinating three-day World War One Trip to France and Belgium for this year group.

In the Upper School approximately 150 boys each year choose History at GCSE, where we follow the Cambridge International Examinations (Modern World History) specification, studying The 20th Century: International Relations since 1919 and a depth study of Germany 1918-1939. We encourage students in their learning of history and in Year 11 a five day residential trip to Berlin is organised.

At any one time, approximately 120 boys will be studying History for A Level or International Baccalaureate. We teach the Edexcel A Level specification, covering Russia 1917-91, Mao's China 1949-76 and The British Experience of Warfare c.1790 to 1918. There is a coursework component too and this allows for broader independent research on Modern or Early Modern topics. For the IB, we follow Route 2 (Late Modern period), with candidates prepared for papers in International Relations 1918-36, Wars and Dictatorships in the 20th century, and European History 1815-1939, as well as individual Historical Investigations.

The Department also offers a well-subscribed and successful A Level Politics course. In Politics, we currently have 65 boys studying the subject and there are 3 sets in each year group. We follow the Edexcel specification with UK Politics in the Lower Sixth and US Politics in the Upper Sixth.

Academic Results

Examination results are outstanding and History is a popular subject at GCSE, A Level and the International Baccalaureate.

		2017	2016	2015	2014
GCSE	A* - A	82%	78%	82%	78%
AS Level	A - B	-	79%	74%	90%
A Level	A* - B	96%	100%	100%	96%
IB (Higher Level)	7 - 6	86%	100%	66%	78%

History and Politics are among the most popular subjects for university applications from Whitgift: approximately 20 boys go on to study these or related subjects. In 2017, the Upper Sixth History and Politics boys achieved an A* - B rate of 83%.

Co-Curricular Activities

The Department is proud of its extensive range of co-curricular activities which are designed to install a love of history in students throughout the School. There are active Junior and Senior History and Politics Societies run by the boys with staff involvement. A wide range of trips and visits are offered, ranging from Politics tours of the Houses of Parliament to multi-day visits to the First World War battlefields and Sixth Form trips to the USA and Russia. Day trips to St. Albans, the Tower of London and Hampton Court are also organised for our younger pupils.

Contact

Please feel free to contact Mr Keith Smith, Head of History, on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail kas@whitgift.co.uk if you have questions regarding the vacancy or would like to know more.

Conditions of Service

The salary will be on the Whitgift Foundation scale (substantially above national scale) according to qualifications and experience. Accommodation may be available. Assistance is offered towards removal expenses etc., up to £1,000 in total.

Staff are required to make a significant contribution to the co-curricular life of the School and this is reflected in the salary offered. A strong commitment to the pastoral and house system is also anticipated.

We offer a generous salary and benefits package including membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme(including Life Assurance cover), Employee Discount Club , discount on school fees for the Foundation Schools (permanent posts only), staff discount on off-peak membership at our on-site gym (Nuffield Health), membership of a healthcare plan, a range of family-friendly benefits and season ticket loan.

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.

For further information and an online application form, please visit www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies. For any general queries, please telephone the School Human Resources Department on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail SchoolHR@whitgift.co.uk.

Applications will be reviewed on a daily basis and interviews may occur at any stage after applications are received so we invite interested candidates to apply as soon as possible.

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 child protection screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service.