



TEACHER OF HISTORY FROM SEPTEMBER 2018

The Portsmouth Grammar School is a leading co-educational school located in the historic heart of Portsmouth. The school is an IB World School and offers the IB Diploma alongside A Level.

Applications are invited for this full-time post, to start from September 2018. We are seeking to appoint an excellent classroom teacher with a real love of History who is able to transfer that interest easily and naturally to our pupils across all year groups from Year 7 to Year 13. The successful candidate will exude enthusiasm, energy and excellent subject knowledge, to meet the needs of all learners. There is no requirement for a particular historical period specialisation for Sixth Form level, but an interest in and past experience of successfully teaching IB History would be advantageous, though by no means a requirement for this post. A willingness to take the lead in developing and overseeing the curriculum for Years 7 and 8 might also be helpful, alongside championing within the department, the creative use of iPads and digital technology in lessons.

Applications are invited from all those who meet the above criteria, whether they are newly qualified, or more experienced teachers or have yet to commence teacher training. The school offers excellent training and support to teachers at all stages of their career.

The successful applicant will be expected to contribute fully to the pastoral and co-curricular life of the department and PGS.

Academic profile of the History and Politics Department

The History and Politics Department is a very strong department in an excellent academic school. The department has traditionally enjoyed outstanding results in public exams. The A*-B pass rate for A Level in both subjects was 100% in 2016 and 2015 and 93% in 2017, with the considerable majority of those being at A*/A grade. At GCSE the A*/A pass rate is consistently in the range of 60-70%. A large number of our sixth formers have gone on to read single or combined honours History at Oxbridge and at other leading universities. Three students in 2017 were successful in receiving and making Oxbridge offers for History. Four pupils were successful in their Oxbridge history applications in 2016. History and allied subjects such as Politics regularly comprise one of the largest subject destinations of our Year 13 leavers. Over 90 Sixth Form pupils currently study History at either A Level or IB, and another 45 take Politics and Government. History is consistently the most popular GCSE option with over 60% of the cohort on average opting for the subject.

Personnel Profile of the Department

The History Department is a flourishing part of the school community and enjoys a high profile within it. It currently comprises one part-time and six full-time teachers including the Head of Department and a Second in Department. The department is outward looking, innovative and enthusiastic in character and colleagues regularly publish articles in leading educational journals. There is a very good working relationship among current colleagues, ideas and teaching materials are shared freely. Growing use is made of Google Classroom and digital resources both for internal administration and in the classroom.

Curriculum overview

All pupils study History in Years 7 to 9, in three 50 minute periods over a fortnightly timetable. The syllabus shadows the National Curriculum. In Year 7 a Medieval Realms course is followed beginning with the lead up to 1066. In Year 8 pupils study 'The Making of the United Kingdom', focusing especially on topics such as the Tudors and transatlantic slavery. The Year 9 course is entitled 'An Introduction to the Modern World', and covers topics such as the Great War, the rise of Hitler and the changing role of women since 1850.

At GCSE History becomes an optional subject. From September 2016 the department has offered a choice between the CIE IGCSE modern history course focusing on aspects of 20th century history including Stalin, the legacy of the great War and the peace treaties, causes of the Second World War and the origins of the Cold War. In addition, we offer the new AQA GCSE course including the topics Charles II, America 1840-95 and Britain: Power and the People c1130 to the present day. Pupils are given a free choice between the two courses and the school is generally able to accommodate all first choices.

At A Level, the syllabus followed is that offered by OCR. Two courses are offered: Early Modern/Medieval and Late Modern. For the Early Modern course, topics currently studied include the Later Tudors, the rise and fall of witch-hunting, and the First and Second Crusades. For the Late Modern course, modules studied include those dealing with the American Revolution, 1746-83, Britain 1918-51, Russia 1855-1956, and the independent essay following on from a taught topic. There are normally eight A Level sets in total, six late modern and two early modern, with each A Level set being shared between two teachers.

Teachers are given considerable flexibility in deciding which topics they wish to teach within each course though naturally this involves collaboration and discussion with the other colleague teaching the set and the Head of Department. For IB, the current topics offered include: Rights and Protests, 20th century Authoritarian States and the History of the Americas covering the US Civil War, Reconstruction and responses to the Depression in the 1930s.

Co-curricular

The department runs a strong programme of co-curricular activities including an annual History trip for Years 10-13 to places as diverse as China, Budapest and Latvia/Lithuania. In 2015 a trip ran to Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus and trips to Budapest and Vietnam ran in 2016, and one to the USA in 2017. There are History days for Years 7-9 making use of more local historical locations including Salisbury Cathedral, Hampton Court Palace and the Bovington Tank Museum. Year 9 also regularly have the opportunity to visit the battlefields of Flanders in February for either a one, two or three day visit to the Ypres and Somme battlefields. The Department runs a Senior History Society and a Politics Society inviting outside speakers to address pupils. The colleagues in the department have traditionally played a significant role in running the school's Model United Nations (MUN) and a willingness to be involved here could be advantageous.

Facilities

All classrooms are equipped with a computer with internet access, a projector and Smartboard. There is a departmental office and a resource room housing DVDs, textbooks and multiple copies of worksheets. Extensive use is made of the school's intranet to share copies of handouts, PowerPoint presentations and other teaching material. The school has an excellent library with a wide range of books and periodicals on all key historical and political topics. Pupils in the Sixth Form also have the opportunity to apply for membership of the Portsmouth University library, which is very helpful for those undertaking wider research into their coursework and extended projects. All staff are issued with iPads.

Additional features of the Department

The department has acquired a strong reputation for its research projects usually involving Year 9 and oral history. We are currently engaged in commemorating the centenaries of the outbreak of the Great War from 2014. This has to date involved running a series of day workshops for local primary school children in July 2014, and commemorating those from the school who died, during or as a direct result of the Great War, by encouraging pupils, parents and colleagues to visit all 130 known graves. The department works closely with the School Archivist, over 25 monographs have been published covering a wide range of subjects pertinent to the history of Portsmouth Grammar School, Old Portmuthians, and the city.

We also value our links with local museums, the Portsmouth City Museum is located next to the main school site, and regularly run an event for Year 8 based around the Mary Rose in close collaboration with the Historic Dockyard and the Biology Department.

In summary it is a busy and outward looking environment in which to work.

Initial Teacher Training

The school has an established reputation for initial teacher training. We work closely with the University of Southampton and the Independent Schools Teacher Induction Panel to design a course that plays to the strengths of each individual teacher. In the first year, initial training is provided by a subject specific mentor and supplemented by our in house induction process. In the second year this training is enriched by enabling a teaching sabbatical at a link school in the maintained sector, at a time mutually convenient for all involved. This provides invaluable experience of teaching in a different educational setting, provides further professional development and enables an application to achieve Qualified Teacher Status. Following the successful attainment of Qualified Teacher Status, teachers commence their NQT year with us.

Benefits

The Portsmouth Grammar School prides itself on being a caring employer and all staff are encouraged to discuss any aspects of their terms and conditions of employment initially with their line manager and, as necessary, with the Bursar who signs all contracts of employment on behalf of the Governing Body.

The school is a strong supporter of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and its INSET programme provides staff with many personal development opportunities. Examples of school support include financial support for further education such as Masters Degrees.

The school has recently developed with the University of Portsmouth two specific accredited part time Masters Short Courses known as the Developing Educational Leadership and Management (DELM) and Human Resource Management in Education. On completion of each unit 30 Masters Credits are awarded.

Governors annually allow up to three staff to take a half term sabbatical on full-pay in the summer term, with most expenses of the sabbatical covered. The aim of sabbaticals is to develop further professional expertise and also to provide an opportunity for staff to reflect on other aspects of their teaching. Sabbaticals are normally based in the UK but may also be overseas.

Key financial benefits of employment at PGS include a generous salary structure supplemented by payment of an additional PGS Allowance. There are many opportunities to take on additional paid responsibilities to assist in the management and operation of the school. The school participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

The school also has a generous fee concession for the children of teaching staff. The school supports the Cycle to Work scheme and accepts Government's Child Care Vouchers.

The school may be able to offer subsidised rental accommodation in Old Portsmouth, for up to one academic year. Please state in your application if this is of interest to you.

All members of staff have free use of the school's sports facilities which include a well-equipped Fitness Centre. A two course lunch is provided to all staff during term time.

The school is always looking for innovative ways to improve the working conditions and remuneration of its employees and welcomes suggestions from all staff.

How to Apply

PGS is committed to safeguarding children and the successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure DBS check.

Further information is available on the website at www.pgs.org.uk, under the About Us section, or can be requested from the school on 023 9236 4228. An electronic application would be preferable, submitted to HR@pgs.org.uk. All applicants should complete an application form, and send a covering letter and full curriculum vitae. Postal applications should be addressed to The Headmaster, The Portsmouth Grammar School, High Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 2LN. Please include email addresses whenever available. All applications should be accompanied by the names, addresses, email and telephone numbers of three referees.

The closing date is noon 15 January 2018 and early applications are encouraged. Interviews will be held w/c 22 January 2018 and shortlisted candidates are asked to allow the whole day for the interview process. The provisional interview date is Friday 26 January.

December 2017