

November 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Head of Physics

Thank you for enquiring about the full-time post of Head of Physics.

The post is permanent and will commence in September 2018. It involves teaching Physics at A-level. There is no requirement to teach any other subject but if you wish to teach a subsidiary subject please let us know.

There is a strong extra-curricular programme at Sir Thomas Rich's and the successful candidate will be expected to contribute. Please state in your application how you would wish to help in this important aspect of school life, it may be in the field of sport, drama, music or other interest you may have.

The post will include Form Tutor responsibilities. The Form Tutor is a key figure within School; he/she has primary responsibility for the pastoral and academic oversight and monitoring of the pupils in his/her Form.

We are seeking to appoint a person with excellent subject knowledge, enthusiasm and the capacity for hard work. If you wish to be considered, please complete the application form and send it to me with a separate letter of application explaining your suitability for the post. The inclusion of your CV would be welcome. The closing date for applications is 9.00 am on Monday 20 November 2017.

Thank you for your interest in this vacancy.

Yours faithfully



Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

The Physics Department at Sir Thomas Rich's School comprises teachers who are passionate about their subject and enjoy challenging and engaging the pupils through a variety of approaches to learning. At present, Physics is taught by four Physics specialists, one of whom is part time, as well as members of other science departments. We are a close knit team which supports and encourages each other, offering help and advice. In total we have many years of teaching experience.

Expectations are high, and both students and teachers need to have a commitment to succeed. Our students are stimulating and challenging learners who respond positively to enthusiastic and engaging teachers. We strive to make Physics interesting and relevant to all ages and levels of ability within the school.

Physics is a successful subject at Sir Thomas Rich's and enjoys a history of producing excellent examination results. Together with Biology, Chemistry and Geology, the Physics Department forms part of the science group. Each has its own Head of Department, responsible for the day-to-day running of the department.

The majority of Physics teaching takes place in purpose built laboratories which are connected by storage areas which are well stocked with appropriate apparatus. There are further storage facilities in each laboratory. There are class sets of apparatus for a large range of practical experiences as well as apparatus for a good selection of teacher demonstrations. Other science laboratories are used from time to time. The Department has access to the School's computer network. There is a wide range of subject-based software. Each Physics laboratory has audio-visual equipment and interactive whiteboards which can be interfaced with video cameras. It is hoped that, with funding, the two dedicated Physics laboratories will be re-furbished before too long.

All pupils are taught Physics as a subject in its own right from Years 8 to 11. Year 7 follow a general science course. Years 8 and 9 are taught as class sets of about 30 students for one double period a week. Each single period lasts about 40 minutes. For Years 10 and 11 the allocation is three periods per week and four periods per week respectively. Set sizes at GCSE range from 22 to 30 students.

At GCSE the Physics Department follows the Edexcel specification, code 1PH0. The Biology and Chemistry departments follow the AQA GCSE courses. Separate sciences are taught to most pupils. There is usually a small group of pupils which follows the AQA Science Double Award.

At A-level the AQA specifications are followed and the turning points in physics option is selected. We find this the most enjoyable of the options to teach.

Physics is a popular choice at A-level and attracts many students from other schools. There are at present 100 A-level students in six sets (three in Year 12 and three in Year 13). Each year we aim to have four or five students go on to read Physics at university with successful entries to Oxbridge at regular intervals.

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