

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

JOB DESCRIPTION



Appointment of
Teacher of Classics (maternity cover)
from September 2018
For one year or one term





The School

Founded in 1432, Sevenoaks enjoys a global reputation as a centre of academic excellence and a flagship school for the International Baccalaureate. A co-educational day and boarding school, it offers a stimulating, intellectually demanding and balanced education for pupils from the age of 11 to 18.

Inspiring facilities, together with expert, enthusiastic and imaginative teaching, provide rich opportunities for students participating in lessons, and a wide variety of sports and the performing arts.

The school's international make-up and outlook promote the principles of tolerance and open-mindedness. About 350 pupils board in the seven boarding houses, and students originate from some 40 countries worldwide.

In 2013 the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) awarded Sevenoaks School the rare accolade of 'Exceptional' for its students' achievement. In the new style inspection in 2017 pupils' achievement and personal development were judged excellent, the highest grades. Sevenoaks was also the highest performing fully co-educational school, and the one with the largest cohort, in *The Sunday Times* Parent Power's top 50 fee-paying schools for the IB in 2015. In 2017 we were, for the second time in 10 years, awarded *The Sunday Times* Independent School of the Year for 2018.

This excellence is achieved by bright, motivated students, inspired by highly qualified and dedicated teachers in well-resourced classrooms. The school has over 150 teaching staff, well supported by a large number of ancillary staff. A professional pastoral team of specialist tutors, boarding house staff and year heads give care and guidance, promoting student welfare and happiness. The mutual respect shared by students and staff generates a harmonious and purposeful atmosphere.

The Campus

The school is situated in the Kent market town of Sevenoaks, and has a prime position at the top of the High Street. The 100-acre site, which includes a number of listed buildings, is beautifully landscaped and adjoins the medieval deer park of Knole. London is only a 30-minute train journey away. Gatwick International Airport is also only 30 minutes away, and there are good transport links to other London airports and the Channel Tunnel.

The school's first-class resources and facilities include a superb sports centre (The Sennocke Centre) opened in 2005. A state-of-the-art performing arts centre (The Space), which provides four outstanding venues for music and drama, was opened in 2010. The next major projects currently underway are a Science & Technology Centre and a Sixth Form Global Study Centre,



which will open in 2018, and new boarding accommodation which should be ready for occupation by 2019.

Teaching at Sevenoaks School

Teaching here is immensely rewarding; we work in high-performing teams towards a shared endeavour. Everyone appointed to teach at Sevenoaks School is expected to actively engage in all aspects of our broad and well-rounded education.

We want all our pupils to enjoy their subjects, to be inspired by their teachers and to become independent, lifelong learners. Teachers are enthusiastic and well-qualified graduates. We have an exceptionally lively, talented and committed staff body. We welcome applications from experienced teachers and newly-qualified teachers but can also provide training including PGCE for those joining the profession at whatever stage. All new staff undertake a comprehensive induction programme. Sevenoaks is committed to supporting its staff with training and professional development tailored to staff needs and interests.

All teachers are involved in proactive pastoral care. All teachers participate in the co-curriculum and, as our outreach activities expand, contribute to our work with local pupils and schools. Teachers at Sevenoaks are innovative and forward-thinking and over 60 staff are involved in the Institutes of Teaching & Learning, Higher

Education & Professional Insight, and Service & Entrepreneurship, shaping further development and initiatives for students and staff alike.

Curriculum

At every stage, we offer a broad, deep and integrated curriculum. Every pupil is encouraged to be curious, creative, critically aware, and to develop his or her passion and talent to the full. Life is fast-paced, dynamic, and expectations are high. At the same time, the school seeks to cultivate in its pupils the habit of reflecting on their learning, and on how they contribute to society more broadly. Ambitious and principled, confident and compassionate, our pupils are prepared for leadership and teamwork in the wider world.

Regular assemblies, tutor group meetings and a programme of talks help the social and emotional understanding in our pupils, and a long tradition of voluntary service and local and international charity projects advances a core set of values across the student body.

In order to support our ethos and aims, we have developed a number of Sevenoaks School Certificate courses (SSCs), which students take instead of GCSEs, in English Literature, the Expressive Arts and Technology. The SSCs (which are fully recognised by UCAS) give teachers the independence and creative scope to shape a richly satisfying curriculum. In Years



9-11 all students take courses in critical thinking developed by the school – *Critical Perspectives* and *Ten Ideas That Changed the World*. The Middle School Diploma, launched in Y9 in September 2017, recognises the learning that takes place both within and outside the classroom and seven core values: creativity, independent learning, critical thinking, international understanding, collaboration, self-awareness and social responsibility.

All of the 400-plus Sixth Form students pursue the International Baccalaureate Diploma, a programme the school has delivered for nearly 40 years. The Diploma is the best preparation for university and for work in a world of global competition. Even more important, it genuinely develops a rich inner life in our students, opening their minds to connections and possibilities within and across the subject disciplines.

It is no surprise that our students leave Sevenoaks to study a wide range of courses in the UK and around the world. All 210 leaving students each year progress to the world's top universities, including up to 25% to Oxford and Cambridge, and 25 or more students to leading US and international universities. They do so with an enlarged capacity for independent thought and intellectual risk-taking, a strong appetite for learning, and equipped with the skills and personal qualities conducive to a happy and successful life.

The Classics Department

Classical subjects are very well established at Sevenoaks and enjoy an excellent reputation both inside and outside the school. The Classics department consists of six teachers, one of whom is part-time. Latin, Greek and Classical Civilisation are all taught up to GCSE and IB, and for entry to Oxford and Cambridge. We use the OCR GCSE syllabus for Latin, Greek and Classical Civilisation, and we teach Higher and Standard Level courses within the IB Diploma in the Sixth Form. The department is highly qualified, energetic, diverse in its interests and dedicated to the subject and the learning of its pupils. Our base is the upper floors of Manor House, one of the most beautiful of the school's buildings, and we enjoy an environment that is both relaxed and well-resourced.

All pupils in Year 7 take Latin as beginners. In Year 9 Latin remains compulsory for all; we run an ab initio course for beginners new to the school, as well as continuation sets for those who have been at Sevenoaks since Year 7 and those new scholarship and common entrance candidates who have studied Latin before. Our Year 9 combined Latin and Greek set has proved a great success. The Cambridge Latin Course is the principal textbook used in the first three years, and John Taylor's Greek to GCSE is used by Greek students. In Years 10 and 11, normally around 60 students opt for Latin at GCSE, with roughly 20 of these taking Greek as well.



In the Sixth Form approximately 50 students are taking at least one Classical subject. There are currently sets for Higher Level and Standard Level Latin, and for Higher Level and Standard Level Greek, shared between all six teachers. Latin and Greek are part of the Languages option at IB, and Latin remains a popular choice; we also offer Classical Greek and Roman Studies, a school-based syllabus within the Humanities section of the IB Diploma. Each year roughly five students apply to read Classics or a Classics-related degree at Oxford or Cambridge.

Outside the classroom we take trips to the British Museum and Fishbourne, attend many education lectures, university open days and productions of Classical plays both in Greek and in translation. We also invite external speakers to talk on Classical topics in school. The department runs a Year 10 visit to the Bay of Naples, a Year 9 residential to Bath and a trip to Rome for students of Latin and Greek in the Lower Sixth.

The Post

The successful candidate will be an enthusiastic, imaginative and well-qualified graduate who is willing to be part of a team. We believe very strongly that Classics has an important and exciting role to play in secondary education in the 21st century. We therefore seek a candidate who will contribute fully to the work of the Classics department at Sevenoaks School, and inspire real

interest in our pupils. The successful applicant will ideally be able to teach the full range of what we offer, from Year 7 to Year 13, and make a useful contribution to our efforts in promoting the work of the department. We regard the co-curricular activities of the department as very important, and we aim to recruit a colleague who will participate energetically in these.

The post is to cover maternity leave for one term but, for the right candidate we would consider a one year contract especially if they could offer a second subject or help out in other areas of the school which would be discussed at interview.

Information for applicants

Sevenoaks School has its own generous salary scale. Accommodation or relocation expenses may be available, and fee discounts for the children of members of staff are available (subject to the usual entry requirements). Further information about the school can be obtained from the school's extensive website: <https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/home>, including more about working at Sevenoaks <https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/about-us/vacancies/working-at-sevenoaks>

Applicants should complete the application form in full. Guidance for completion of the form is downloadable from our website. Note that Part 6 must show a complete history of employment, and should continue on a separate sheet of the



application form if necessary. Please submit the completed application form, covering letter and CV by post to:

The Personnel Department
Sevenoaks School
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 1HU

Tel: 01732 467740; email: pa@sevenoaksschool.org.

Applications should be submitted by midday on **Wednesday 21 March 2018**.

The school retains the right to interview suitable applicants and appoint before the deadline.

The post holder has a responsibility to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young persons for whom he or she is responsible, or with whom he or she comes into contact, and will adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's Child Protection Policy Statement at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post the post-holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the school, he or she must report any concerns to the school's Designated Child Protection Coordinator or to the Head.