

Teacher of Science (Chemistry)

MPR/UPR
Required from September 2018



A Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for expressing an interest in applying for the position of Teacher of Science (Chemistry) at St Christopher's. This vacancy will provide the successful candidate with the opportunity to work in a very strong department and an **Outstanding** 11-18 Church of England high school (SIAMS 2016-17).

The successful candidate will join a flourishing and thriving school. The staff are hard-working, reflective and collegiate in approach. Our pupils are a delight and parents are very supportive. We are always oversubscribed in Year 7 and the Sixth Form, although we take nothing for granted. This year, for example, well over 700 pupils applied for one of our 195 places. St Christopher's is a rewarding place to work and to develop professionally. The school engenders real loyalty from all who are associated with it.


The application form should be completed electronically and emailed to **head@st-christophers.org**, marked for the attention of Mrs Walsh, my PA. It should be accompanied with a supporting letter (of not more than two sides of A4 paper, in 11 point font) explaining your suitability for the post, including reference to your skills, experience and a flavour of your vision for teaching at St Christopher's.

The closing date for applications is Monday 5th March (midday) and interviews are planned for Thursday 8th March.

If you would like to find out more about the school or position, or to organise a visit, please feel free to email my PA at the above address.

I took up my present position at St Christopher's in September 2013 and know all too well the time and commitment required to go through the application process for a new post. If, having considered the supporting documents you feel you have the necessary qualities we require, I would be delighted to receive your application.

Yours sincerely,



R.D Jones
Headmaster



School Information 2017-2018

Introduction

St Christopher's is a highly successful and popular 11-18 co-educational Church of England school with 1,310 pupils and students. We are situated in the Lancashire town of Accrington close to the Ribble Valley. Good motorway links mean that Preston, Burnley, Blackburn, Manchester and North Yorkshire are all within a 30-40 minute car journey. The school is situated in a pleasant setting with views towards Pendle Hill.

Our pupils come from a wide catchment area. Pupils join us in Year 7 from over fifty primary schools, and the sixth form receives students from around thirty secondary schools. We enjoy an enviable reputation, built-up over many years, for providing high quality education for a comprehensive intake of pupils. Our reputation means that we are a popular school, and always over-subscribed. However, we do not allow ourselves to become complacent, always striving for higher standards in all areas. This year, for example, well over 700 pupils applied for one of our 195 places. Ten per cent of our pupils are eligible for the Pupil Premium and 3% are from minority ethnic groups.

There are 85 teachers and 16 teaching assistants. The Senior Management Team is substantively the Headmaster, two Deputy Headteachers, three Senior Assistant Headteachers, two Assistant Headteachers, and the school Business Manager.

The school's commitment to learning extends to staff as well as pupils; there is a well-developed support structure for NQTs and other new members of staff, and a culture of ongoing professional development among our teaching and support staff. We are continually looking to develop innovative approaches to learning, with an increasing focus on collaborative learning. All classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and access to laptop computers. Whilst we appreciate the contribution that technology can play in assisting learning, we remain committed to the idea that it is the teacher who makes the difference.

Academic results

Our pupils achieve very well but we strive always to improve further. This year pupil attainment reached record levels with 80% of Year 11 pupils gaining 5+ GCSE passes at grades A*-C (9-4), including English and mathematics. Our Sixth Form, which opened in 2010 and now has over 300 students studying A-level, achieved impressive results, with 82% of students gaining A*-C.

The school has grown significantly in recent years but this period of change has been managed without compromising the high standards of pastoral care and academic achievement for which we are well known.

Curriculum

We offer a genuinely broad and balanced curriculum to all year groups. Pupils acquire the skills, concepts, knowledge and skills necessary to prepare them to take place their place as active and successful citizens of the 21st century.

At Key Stage 3, subjects are taught according to the National Curriculum guidelines and a wide range of learning styles are used to ensure that all pupils are engaged and able to progress. We believe that pupils learn best in classes appropriate to their ability so pupils are set for many subjects from the beginning of Year 7.



School Information 2017-2018

Curriculum (continued)

In Years 10 and 11, all pupils follow a core curriculum of English, mathematics, science, RE, PSHE and RE. In addition, pupils select courses from a wide range of GCSE options. Pupils are provided with the opportunity to study the EBacc suite of qualifications, with the most able following separate science courses.

Over thirty A-level courses are offered in the Sixth Form. Most students continue to study four subjects for most of the Lower Sixth and continue with three of these in the Upper Sixth. All sixth formers participate in our enrichment programme which takes place on Wednesday afternoons. A wide range of options are available including pre-professional work experience, sports academies, archery and dance. Most students progress to university with many making successful applications to Russell Group universities including Oxford and Cambridge.

The curriculum is based around five sixty-minute periods per day, organised as a two-week 48 lesson timetable.

Extra-curricular activities

Pupils are encouraged to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities including the largest school based Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in Lancashire, an award winning eco group, and a vibrant music department which enjoys a national reputation. Opportunities for foreign travel are numerous, including, in the last year, visits to India, Iceland, USA, Paris, Rome and Barcelona. All staff are encouraged to participate to the extra-curricular life of the school and contribute in any way they can.

Pastoral care

The Heads of Year and Form Teachers (Personal Tutors in the Sixth Form) have responsibility for the welfare, academic progress and discipline of the pupils in their care. Time is set aside each day to enable form teachers to get to know each pupil as an individual.

Pupils are offered many opportunities to accept positions of responsibility in addition to the senior roles of prefect, Head Boy and Head Girl. Pupil Voice is important at St Christopher's and we have an active School Council.

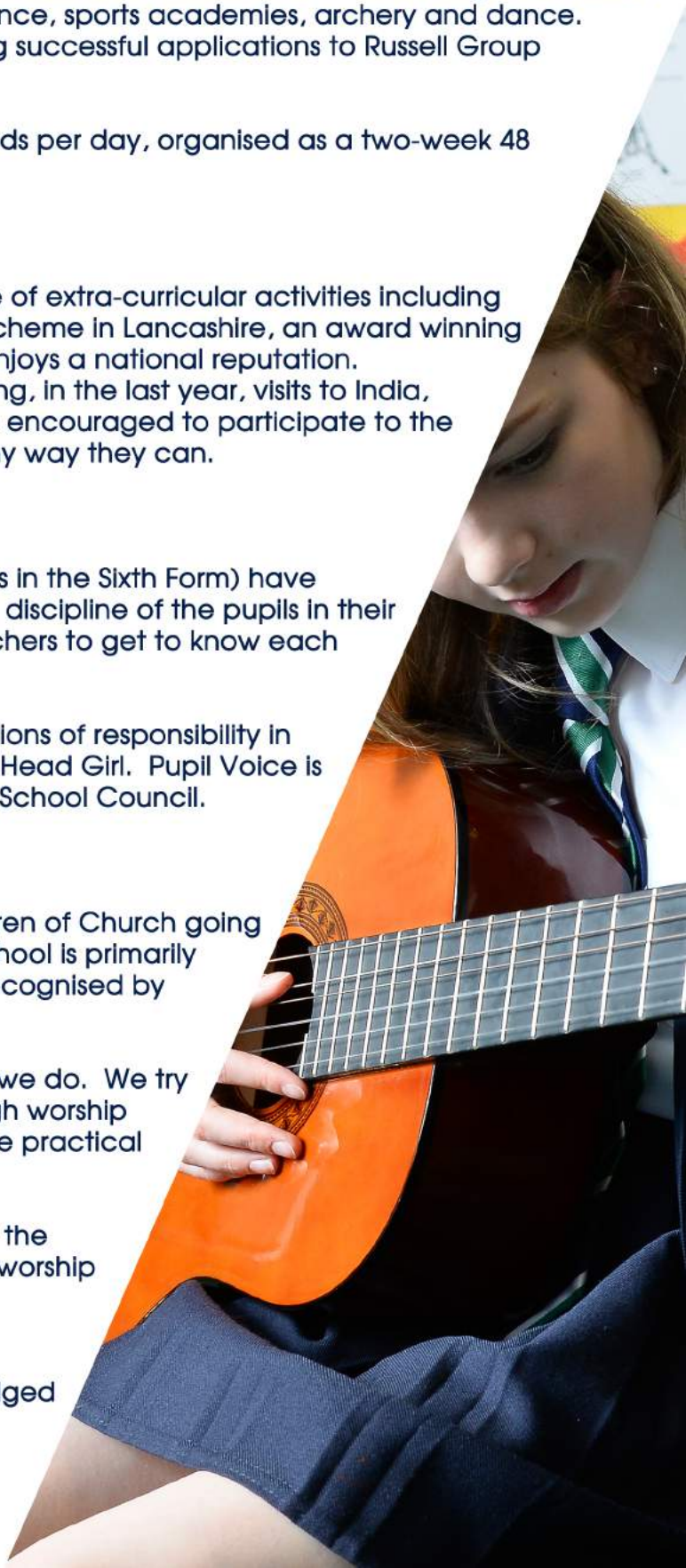
Spiritual care and worship

St Christopher's opened in 1958 to educate the children of Church going families of east Lancashire. Admission to the main school is primarily based on parental patterns of worship at churches recognised by Churches Together or the Evangelical Alliance.

The school motto of 'Ad Gloriam Dei' informs all that we do. We try to establish caring attitudes and lasting values through worship and work done in the classroom, as well as, on a more practical level, supporting charitable appeals.

Each school day begins with an act of worship within the Anglican tradition. A Chaplaincy Team supports our worship and pastoral work, each year group having its own chaplain.

At the last SIAMS inspection (2016) the school was judged Outstanding in all areas.



School Information 2017-2018

Ofsted

The school was inspected by Ofsted in December 2016 and was judged to be Good with a number of Outstanding areas. Inspectors reached some telling judgements.

- 'Leaders have created an ambitious culture. Pupils are expected to become the best they can be, both academically and socially.'
- 'Pupils' attendance is excellent.'
- 'The work the school does to keep pupils safe is exemplary.'
- 'The behaviour of pupils is outstanding.'
- 'Tolerance and respect are strongly evident throughout the harmonious school community and the warm and inclusive ethos permeates every aspect of the school's work.'
- 'Pupils are proud of their school. Pupils of all abilities demonstrate resilience and enthusiasm in lessons.'
- 'Attainment is at record levels.'

We all work hard to ensure that every child at St Christopher's is known, supported and challenged. In the words of one of our former students –

"I am still not sure what I want to be but after studying at St Christopher's I know who I want to be."

R D Jones

Headmaster



Science Department Profile

The Science Department is stable and has a strong record of success. It is very well led and the whole team are dedicated to delivering lessons of the highest standard.

Number of staff Twelve full-time specialists and two part-time teachers, two full-time technicians.

Departmental structure Head of Department supported by teacher's in-charge of KS3, KS4 and each of the A-level subjects respectively.

Examination courses for KS4 AQA GCSE Triple Science or Combined Science: Trilogy
All pupils take two or three science GCSEs.

Examination courses for KS5	Biology	OCR
	Chemistry	OCR
	Physics	AQA

GCSE examination results (A*-C)	2015	2016	2017
1x GCSE	80%	76%	78%
2x GCSE	70%	65%	69%
Biology	96%	97%	88%
Chemistry	98%	100%	92%
Physics	98%	100%	89%

Attainment is strong and above the national average.

A-level examination results (A*-B)	2015	2016	2017
Biology	53%	56%	40%
Chemistry	63%	40%	50%
Physics	45%	11%	67%

Accommodation Seven laboratories in main school and two state-of-the-art labs and one general classroom in the Sixth Form Centre

We are currently bidding for Improvements to the main school classrooms.

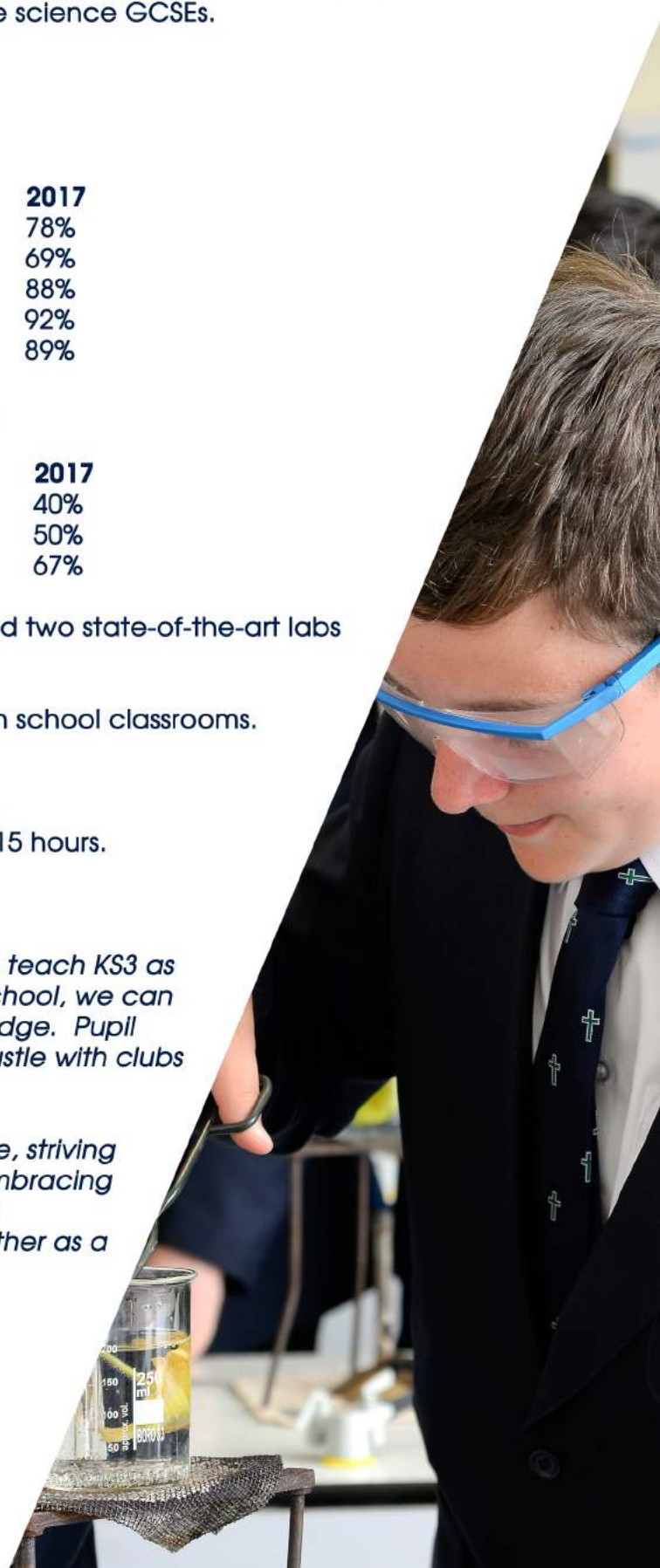
Structure of timetable

KS3 Y7 – 6; Y8 – 6; Y9 – 6, hours (lessons) per fortnight.
KS4 Ten hours (lessons) per fortnight. Triple Science 15 hours.
KS5 Nine hours (lessons) per fortnight.
KS4 and KS5 are taught in teams.

"The Science Department is a large and busy one. We teach KS3 as topics, and GCSE work begins in Year 9. As an 11-18 school, we can enhance our lessons through thorough subject knowledge. Pupil relationships with staff are excellent and lunchtimes bustle with clubs and activities.

The science team is a hardworking and dedicated one, striving to make progress through stimulating teaching and embracing new initiatives. We are a settled team of experienced teachers, who work together, complementing each other as a strong and welcoming team."

Mrs C Flanagan, Head of Science



Person Specification

Candidates for this post should have or be able to demonstrate the following:

(**E** = ESSENTIAL, **D** = DESIRABLE)

Qualifications and Experience

Qualified Teacher Status **E**

Good honours degree or equivalent **E**

Knowledge and Skills

A belief in the value of each child **E**

The ability to raise attainment, achievement and aspirations **E**

Excellent subject knowledge **E**

Knowledge of NC and GCSE subject requirements and ability to teach at this level **E**

Knowledge of A-level Chemistry and ability to teach at this level **D**

Good knowledge of how to develop and improve teaching **E**

Understanding of the principles of assessment and the way in which it can be used to promote pupil progress **E**

Understanding of strategies to promote positive pupil behaviour **E**

High level of communication and organisational skills **E**

Skilled in the use of ICT **E**

Ability to use data effectively to inform appropriate actions **E**

Ability to share quality practice with the team **E**

Personal Qualities and Attributes

Willingness to support and reinforce the ethos of a Church school **E**

Christian commitment **D**

Hard working, loyal and flexible in approach to work **E**

Commitment to on-going learning and professional development **E**

Openness, good humour, enthusiasm and a sense of proportion **E**

Excellent health and attendance record **E**

Ability to prioritise and work under pressure **E**

Desire to contribute to a range of extra-curricular activities **E**

