



English Teacher

Required for September 2018

English Teacher

The advertisement in the TES is as follows;

An exceptional opportunity for a passionate, dynamic, and inspirational teacher to teach English to Years 5 to 8 in this vibrant and forward looking prep school.

Closing date: **Monday 22nd January 2018 at 9.00am**

Thomas's London Day Schools

Thomas's London Day Schools educates over 2000 children at four schools – Thomas's Battersea, Thomas's Clapham, Thomas's Fulham, and Thomas's Kensington, and in one kindergarten in Battersea. Thomas's Academy, formerly New King's Primary School, joined the Thomas's family of schools in September 2015.

It is our prime concern that children at Thomas's are happy. We provide for their education by giving each child dignity and self-esteem through a sense of achievement, be it academic, artistic, or sporting. The central belief is that all this and more can be achieved if we can be kind to one another

In these preparatory years we offer a broad curriculum covering a wide range of subjects and skills so that by the time they leave us our pupils will have begun to identify individual areas of talent. In a positive and stimulating environment we ensure that each child achieves the best academic results of which each child is capable.

Thomas's Clapham

a. The School and its facilities

The school occupies a site on Broomwood Road between Wandsworth and Clapham Commons. It is housed in a Grade II listed building which was built between 1904 and 1908

as the site for Clapham County Girls' School. Thomas's Clapham opened as a school for boys and girls in 1993 aged 4–13. There are currently 647 pupils on roll. Philip Ward took up post as Headmaster in September 2012. Before that he was the Headmaster of Feltonfleet, in Cobham, for twelve years.

The facilities at Clapham include a superb Drama studio and fully equipped theatre space, and separate Art, Pottery and Design Technology centre, which was newly built in 2001, and an impressive building housing the Reception classes, which was built six years ago. Exciting new outdoor play and learning areas have been created, as well as *Mindfulness Place*, an enchanting garden dedicated to the school's commitment to teaching Mindfulness.

The Masterplan for a significant refurbishment of the existing teaching areas and the provision of a new space for STEAM teaching is well developed. The Year 1 and 2 classrooms were completely refurbished during the summer of 2016. The Year 3, 4 and 5 classrooms underwent their own transformation during the summer of 2017, along with the IT room, and some areas of the Music Department. The recent and on-going investment in digital learning is significant and exciting.

Demand for places in the school is considerable, with most children arriving into the school in Reception. Around twenty girls and boys join the school in Year 7 from Thomas's Fulham. One class of children leave at 11+ for London day and boarding schools, the majority stay until Year 8, sitting 13+ exams for the London day schools, Common Entrance (92% A*–B in 2017) or Academic Scholarship. 54 academic and Co-curricular Scholarships were won in 2017. Approximately 80% leave for boarding schools at the end of Year 8.

b. The Clapham Way

The approach to teaching and learning (the Clapham Way) is exciting, progressive, and challenging. Change is eagerly embraced by colleagues and pupils who share a passion for learning and finding new and better ways of doing things. Creativity, thinking skills and instilling a thirst for independent learning are at the heart of our approach. Traditional and didactic teaching methods would feel alien at Thomas's Clapham, and standards and expectations are high. Continuous professional development is a strongly established culture within the school.

Academic standards are very high, but there is a strong and vibrant co-curricular programme with a strong emphasis on breadth. The school was recognised by Ofsted in April 2011 as Outstanding in each category.

c. Inspiring every child, and the future

Inspiring every child, the five year strategic development plan, was launched in September 2013. As well as its focus on development in a number of key areas, *Inspiring every child* promotes a values education based approach to inspiring learning, living and leading in every area of the school community.

One consequence of the strategic plan is that the PHSCE programme was replaced in September 2014 by a new whole school *Inspiring Living* course, focusing on well-being and

healthy living. Another is that we are currently carrying out a complete review of our broad curriculum. Research and evidence based enquiry will help us to reshape and balance the curriculum to ensure a relevant C21 teaching and learning experience for every child in the future. We rolled out a revised curriculum in September 2016, characterised by enquiry based learning throughout the school, and the teaching of a character skills woven into every aspect of the curriculum which we call the 8C's. A commitment to teaching Growth Mindset has been very well received.

English at Thomas's Clapham

English and Literacy are at the core of the curriculum throughout the school. Provision is Outstanding from Reception through to Year 8. Our Whole School Literacy policy makes explicit that every teacher is a teacher of English.

English is taught by class teachers in form groups up to Year 4. In Year 5, the children are set by ability, but continue to be taught by the Year 5 teachers. English specialists teach the classes in Years 6, 7 and 8, which are ability set. The sets are fluid, with the setting reviewed regularly. When placing pupils in sets we consider their preparation for Common Entrance at 13+, 11+ senior school entrance examinations, London Day Schools and Scholarship. Our curriculum ensures that the children develop a diverse range of literacy skills to prepare them for entrance examinations and, more significantly, to prepare them for future life. We also foster a love of reading. All classes have a timetabled lesson in our newly refurbished library where pupils can enjoy using listening books, conduct personal research or read for pleasure. There are regular guest speakers including authors, poets and book illustrators, and this is targeted across all the year groups in the school.

The English team consists of the English Subject Leader, Mrs Lizzy Ross, Mrs Felicity Perowne, Mrs Charlotte Twort, Miss Steph Lacey, and Dr Glenda Hall. The team carry a range of specialism between them, from a love of Shakespeare to a deep appreciation of poetry. They are committed to creating cross-curricular links with subjects such as Drama, History and Philosophy. This passion for all areas of English instils a love of learning within the pupils and this is celebrated in whole school events such as World Book Day and DEAR (Drop Everything And Read).

There is a strong commitment to CPD in the school and this is reflected in the teaching and learning of English. Growth Mindset is at the heart of lessons and pupils have regular and planned opportunities to reflect over their work and their learning. Thomas's is a values led school and our values form the basis of our rewards system, including the celebration and identification of commitment, craftsmanship and creativity in pupils' work.

Job specification – Teacher of English

The successful candidate will be a qualified and outstanding teacher of English.

a. Accountable

- To the English Subject Leader

b. Responsible

- For planning and teaching English

c. Key areas of responsibility

- To teach English to Years 5 to 8, ensuring the best possible practice in all areas of English curricular learning.
- To promote high quality teaching and learning of the National Curriculum, embracing and incorporating the demands of preparation for both 11+ and 13+.
- To set high expectations for pupil behavior, establishing and maintaining a good standard of discipline within a positive and optimistic environment where well-focused teaching and positive, productive relationships are the norm.
- To ensure that the classroom is an invigorating environment for effective learning, embracing pupils' work on paper, display and in the general atmosphere created in the classroom.
- To plan effectively to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to meet their potential, taking account of the needs of every child.
- To write academic reviews and reports, and monitor and evaluate pupils' learning, liaising closely with the English Subject Leader, and the Assistant Head (Curriculum and Innovation), Head of Upper School (11+) and Head of Upper School (13+).
- To develop open, easy and professional relationships with colleagues.
- To be accessible and amenable to regular parental contact, and develop open, easy and professional relationships with parents.
- To maintain and manage the physical resources in the learning area.
- To undertake supervisory duties, attend assemblies, and school lunch, and to cover for absent colleagues.
- To take part in the annual residential trips as required.
- To run an assigned weekly club.
- To attend staff meetings, School INSET, and attend professional courses to enhance teaching effectiveness and qualifications.

- To support and contribute strongly to the corporate life of the school (eg contributing material to newsletters, the school magazine, the web site, attending events etc).
- To fully implement school policies and practices.
- To comply with all Health and Safety requirements.
- To establish a safe environment that supports learning and where pupils feel secure and confident.
- To contribute to the rich and varied extra-curricular programme.
- To play a full part in the life of the School, including attendance at events as required by the Headmaster (eg parent teacher meetings, the Carol Service, *Celebration and Farewell* etc).

d. Person specification

- A qualified teacher of English.
- A proven and superb teacher of English who will build on the many strengths and successes of the English subject team.
- An imaginative and creative professional, and able to introduce new and varied ways of developing our provision for English.
- A team player able to inspire passion for English in every area of the school.
- Committed to the busy and enriching ethos of the school.
- An inspiring personality in and out of the classroom, and someone whose approach to teaching and learning is innovative and progressive, who makes learning fun, but who sets the highest standards, would enjoy working at Thomas's, Clapham.
- A sense of humour, adaptability, the capacity to inspire confidence in pupils, parents and colleagues, and a real love of teaching the young is paramount. A can do, will do attitude will identify the successful candidate, and the rewards for a dynamic and enterprising teacher will be significant.
- An ambitious colleague keen to make a name in the prep school world.

We would be delighted to welcome applications from colleagues currently working in the maintained sector. However, understanding our high expectations, a commitment to working very hard, and clear evidence that you are going to get fully involved in the life of this excellent school is paramount. You need not have worked in a prep school before, but you do need to understand and have empathy with the ethos and spirit of prep schools and independent education. You need to be in full sympathy with all that we are about.

Other areas of School life

All teachers appointed to Thomas's Clapham are expected to contribute fully to the extra-curricular and pastoral life of the School.

Pastoral care is a strong feature of life at the school, and all teachers are expected to share in this responsibility, probably as a Form Teacher or as a Tutor.

The wider life of the school – The School expects its teachers to contribute whole-heartedly to other aspects of school life by drawing upon their own interests and enthusiasms. The richness of the school depends upon teachers who, for example, coach games, support and organise clubs and society meetings, or take children on trips and residential expeditions.

Salary and support

A competitive salary and conditions are offered.

This post offers a very exciting opportunity to work in one of the outstanding prep schools in the country.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

We are committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff to share this commitment and work in accordance with our child protection policies and procedures. All posts are subject to an enhanced DBS check.

The successful candidate will be expected to commit to the following;

Thomas's London Day Schools is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring check.

Applications

A brief letter of application, curriculum vitae, and a completed and signed application form, should be addressed to the Headmaster, Philip Ward, as soon as possible.

The Headmaster would be delighted to talk on the phone to any candidate who would like to know more about the post. He can be contacted either at the School by phone (020 7326 9301) or by email – pward@thomas-s.co.uk.

So, too, would the English Subject Leader, Mrs Lizzy Ross. She can be contacted either at the School by phone (020 7326 9301) or by email – eross@thomas-s.co.uk

Details of the post and application forms are available on the Thomas's London Day School web site www.thomas-s.co.uk/Working-at-Clapham or you can email the Operations Manager, Mrs Viki Stanton – vstanton@thomas-s.co.uk.

Interviews will take place on **Friday 26th January 2018**.

PC Ward
December 2017

This role falls within the category of regulated activity, therefore you will be required to have an enhanced DBS check and a barred list check. Should you receive any cautions or convictions whilst in our employment these must be reported immediately to your line manager.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment and work in accordance with our child protection policies and procedures.

The post holder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom he/she is responsible, or with whom he/she comes into contact will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's policies 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/she must report any concerns to the school's Safeguarding Officer or Deputy.