

Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall



Teacher of English Post – From September 2017
MPR



The School

Queen Mary's Grammar School is an invigorating and rewarding place to work: the pupils are intelligent and committed to study; the staff are friendly and forward looking. It is far more than just a place of work – it is a thriving community, proud of its past and confident of its future. In November 2008, it was recognised as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, our most recent inspection.

There are currently 938 pupils on roll, including 342 in the Sixth Form. The School has an outstanding academic record and regularly features in the upper reaches of the national league tables. In 2016, 79% of GCSE grades were A*/A and 76% of A Level grades were A*, A or B. Our value added scores are particularly impressive (with GCSE being in the 5th percentile nationally in 2015); we do not rest on our laurels, but encourage all our pupils to take up the challenge of realising their full potential.

In June 2011, the School converted to Academy status and we have undertaken a series of exciting building projects over the past 6 years, including a new Sixth Form Centre, Science labs and a Humanities wing, as well as a new dining room and reception. We partnered a local charity in the founding of Walsall Studio School in 2012 and are currently in the final stages of setting up the Mercian Multi Academy Trust (along with four other schools). Further information regarding the Mercian MAT is included at the end of this document.

The School encourages an enterprising and international outlook: we have enjoyed exchanges with a partner school in Shaoxing, and schools in Albi (France), Biedenkopf (Germany) and Vigo (Spain).

We want our own pupils to lead happy and fulfilled lives. Learning here is not just about passing exams, but about enjoying the life of the mind. We also encourage all our pupils to take part in a wide range of enrichment activities in sport, drama and music, in the Combined Cadet Force and at Farchynys, the school's Welsh centre, on the Afon Mawddach in Southern Snowdonia.

You will notice a relaxed working atmosphere as you walk round the school. Our pupils come from diverse backgrounds, but they all thrive on the sense of support, encouragement and care that characterises Queen Mary's. Increasingly our pupils play a leading role in the school's development; *participation* is the key idea behind our motto - it's what you are prepared to put in that will prove to be a source of riches for the rest of your life or, more succinctly in Latin: *Quas dederis solas semper habebis opes*.



The Department

The English Department at Queen Mary's is a supportive and rewarding place to work and to learn. All pupils study for two GCSEs, and we offer A Levels in English Literature and English Language & Literature. In 2016, 85% of students achieved an A or A* at GCSE English Literature; 74% did so in GCSE English Language; 100% of pupils achieved A*-C. Across the subjects at A Level, 73% of students achieved an A*, A or B grade.

Led by Adam Clay-Croome (Head of English and Whole-School Literacy Coordinator), the English Department is staffed by highly qualified, experienced teachers who enjoy independence in the classroom. Martin Fadden (Second in English) is also a Year Tutor. As is Natalie Timmins, who leads on Key Stage 3 and outreach to primary schools. Sarah Slater has responsibility for Key Stage 4 and Drama. Mike Lax is an Assistant Head. We are delighted that the vacancy for Teacher of English has arisen due to the school's expansion from four to five form entry. We would welcome an NQT or more experienced teacher who can bring fresh ideas to the department and add to the academic specialisms of its staff.

We want our pupils to create original, imaginative and accurate work and believe that those who engage with all aspects of English are the most likely to succeed in this demanding but highly-valued subject. In recognition of this, the English Department seeks to enthuse pupils and offer them a variety of opportunities to excel, both in lessons and by running extracurricular activities including school productions. To read widely is important to pupils' success in English; to this end, teachers run book clubs for pupils across Years 7 to 13, as well as creative writing and drama clubs. Additionally, pupils are keen to seek book recommendations based on their interests from their English teachers. Successful students of English contribute sensitively to discussions and explain their ideas clearly; therefore, teachers model the highest standards of oral communication and praise and encourage pupils to follow their lead through high-quality speaking and listening work, including class discussions, presentations and debates. The English Department also collaborates with the RPE Department in running the Judge Denison Society (Debating and Public Speaking), to promote oracy within the school community, and in organising national speaking competitions.

English Department colleagues meet regularly with a focus on teaching and learning. Just as pupils must recognise alternate viewpoints of text, so colleagues enjoy discussing and debating the high-quality literature they teach. Like the best of our students, teachers are continually refining their viewpoints and interpretations of texts, enhancing their enjoyment of this rewarding and intellectually stimulating job.

English is currently housed in four specialist classrooms equipped with interactive whiteboards and ceiling-mounted projectors. ICT is a feature of many lessons, tying in with the School's BYOD initiative. For a glimpse of life in the English Department, check out @QMGSEnglish on Twitter.



The position

Job Description:

The successful candidate will:

- teach English to all year groups from Year 7 to A Level
- plan and teach challenging and differentiated lessons which enable high levels of progress
- deploy a range of teaching strategies, including drama lessons, to engage pupils
- maintain discipline in lessons to ensure that learning can take place
- mark pupils' work, giving constructive feedback to aid improved performance, and monitor their progress
- communicate regularly with the Head of Department about pupil performance and achievement
- use relevant pupil data to help pupils to achieve their full potential
- make an active contribution to the extra-curricular life of the school.

Person Specification:

- You will be a well-qualified graduate in the appropriate subject discipline
- You will possess, or be working towards, a Postgraduate Certificate of Education or equivalent teaching qualification in secondary education
- You will be an innovative teacher, keen to develop English teaching in the school
- You will have a commitment to the ethos of the school and a willingness to contribute to enrichment activities
- You will be positive and enthusiastic in approach
- You will have good oral and written communication skills
- You will have well-developed ICT skills
- You will have the ability to work as part of a team and to develop and maintain positive relationships with teaching and associate staff
- You will be willing to be involved in the pastoral life of the school and act in the role of form tutor
- You will be suitable to work with children. This job is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure.

Open Morning for potential applicants: Friday 17th February between 9.00 – 10.00 am

Closing date: Wednesday 1 March 2017 at 4.00 pm

Interviews: TBC

Introducing a new Multi Academy Trust

Dear Potential Applicant,

The Mercian Trust offers an exciting opportunity for Queen Mary's Grammar School, along with four other partner schools, to be involved in shaping a new educational landscape across the Borough of Walsall.

The Mercian Trust brings together five schools, all rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, to work for the benefit of all our pupils. The Schools are: Aldridge School, Queen Mary's Grammar School, Queen Mary's High School, Shire Oak Academy and Walsall Studio School.

The Multi Academy Trust or MAT will, we hope, come into existence as a legal entity in April 2017, but The Mercian Trust has already begun to function, establishing good working relationships between the different institutions and the people in them. The Trust respects the autonomy of its founding schools: they will be custodians of their heritage, distinct identity and successful operation. However, as we focus on meeting the needs of pupils across the educational piece, The Mercian will foster and develop strengths that will be greater than the sum of its parts. Diversity is what underpins this Trust; what makes it work is seamless collaboration.

Our MAT will prepare pupils to enjoy life to the full by inspiring them to:

- Realise their full potential as learners
- Thrive in the world of work
- Make a positive contribution to the local, national and international community

Thank you for your interest in joining Queen Mary's Grammar School. It is an exciting prospect in a great school. We hope that the MAT might be able to offer you extra possibilities in terms of development and experience. The DfE described the MAT's plans as a "compelling vision for Walsall." Perhaps you might be involved in turning that vision into reality. If that interests you, it might be something you would like to discuss at interview.

Queen Mary's Grammar School looks forward to receiving your application.

Yours faithfully,



Timothy Swain, CEO Designate,

The Mercian Trust

