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THE LATYMER SCHOOL

Founded 1624

TEACHING AT LATYMER

The large number of applicants for student places at Latymer and the special ethos make it an exciting place to teach.

We have about 12 student teachers on each placement, they learn their craft and some are only too happy to apply for a teaching post if one becomes available.

There are usually about 4 newly qualified teachers in any one year – they are able to develop their teaching skills in an environment where students are cooperative and willing to work with innovative teachers.

Other staff stay for their whole career, continuing to develop as subject teachers and some choosing to go down the route of wider responsibilities than as a class teacher.

Many staff on their first visit are surprised at how “normal” a school it is. There are houses, there is a school song, we are conscious of long tradition but also use modern, active, teaching methods and the school is well resourced. We are not complacent, there are cross-department staff working parties who develop ideas and share them with all staff at the half-termly staff meetings.

We are serious about providing opportunities for teachers to develop; this is valuable for the individual and valuable for students since they receive an enhanced service when teachers teach even better. There is a generous INSET budget so it is unusual for a request for external training to be declined but most staff feel able to develop by taking advantage of all the in-school opportunities:

1. Staff Working Parties
2. Staff meetings where colleagues present on an area of interest or innovation
3. There are 3 temporary TLR positions which are advertised on an annual basis. These are all at the level of TLR3 with titles such as “Coordinator of Sixth Form Academic Enrichment”
4. There are 7 Head of Learning posts and 7 Assistant Head of Learning posts. It is unusual for there to be none advertised internally during any year.
5. There are numerous trips during the year, providing an opportunity for staff to interact with students outside the classroom and, in time, to take a leadership role if they wish. There are 12

residential trips a year to Cwm, our field centre in North Wales, many subject day trips and many trips during holidays, including to Barbados, South Africa and two ski trips a year.

6. There is a significant contribution from non-PE specialists to the provision of extra-curricular sport giving students the opportunity to take part in competitive sport at many levels, from basketball to cross-country running.
7. For Middle leaders there is an associate SLT scheme where a colleague applies to be on SLT for a term, during which they work on a whole school project, present to whole school assembly and have the opportunity to interview prospective teachers.

To go with this general statement giving some idea of what it is like to teacher at Latymer are some case studies of individual teachers at Latymer.

BARRY BERNDES: PHYSICS TEACHER

Training: PGCE

Previous School(s): Latymer was my first teaching post many years ago!

Opportunities at Latymer: In the 30+ years of teaching at Latymer there have been many opportunities afforded to me. Some of those have been directly related to my teaching and career development and others in what I would call extra curricula areas. As a professional I was given the freedom to plan and teach lessons without having to follow prescriptive departmental lesson plans and content, as long as the pupils made progress and achieved their potential. I have experienced working on different focus groups and management of the whole school curriculum, and am currently Head of Science. There have also been the opportunities to work with the pupils outside of the curriculum. I have coached managed a football team at the school for 30 years, accompanied numerous school trips and have looked after the school technical team for drama and music productions

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: Although Latymer is highly academic and highly achieving, the primary ethos of the school is to educate the whole person and for their wellbeing, not that all must get the highest exam results. I particularly enjoy working with pupils who are generally keen to learn and ask questions. I never go into a lesson feeling that it is going to be predictable and a repeat of what I have done before. The pupils mostly treat staff and each other with respect and stimulating lessons keep them engaged and trouble free. It is really encouraging to see many young people asking questions in lessons, showing a general interest in the subject, and those questions are often challenging. A lot of pupils go on to study Science and Engineering at university, and a surprising number do keep in touch and inform you of their career progression. Meeting a number of them at 'Old Boys Football' , and reunion days and seeing them with their families is a real treat. Work colleagues are very supportive and willingly shared resources and ideas, they often go out of their way to help others both in their work and also their personal lives.

DR SYLVIE KOESTLÉ-CATE: HEAD OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS STUDIES

Training: Maîtrise, PGCE, MA, PhD

Previous Schools: City and Islington Sixth Form Centre, Colombo International School and Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School. I have also taught at the University of East Anglia (UEA), the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

Opportunities at Latymer: The school has been very generous in offering plenty of training to ensure I am ready to deliver the new A Level course in Economics. In addition to this, I have been given the opportunity to attend a course for Outstanding Teachers and received training in strategies for improving literacy at A Level. During one of my year here, the school's focus on Teaching and Learning enabled me to benefit from the expertise of an ex-Ofsted inspector on how to conduct and feedback on lesson observations. The school prioritizes staff development and has been very supportive in releasing me in order to work for Tutor2u for two days to deliver revision sessions in London for A Level Economics students and in allowing me to continue with my work as an examiner and team leader for Pearson. The CPD offered in-house is of top quality and highly relevant to our teaching.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: This is my fourth year at Latymer and what I particularly enjoy is the calibre and enthusiasm of the students here. I have found them engaged, willing to take risks and proactive in responding to suggestions. They are truly inspiring, which makes lesson preparation and marking both exciting and fulfilling. I really enjoy my relationship with the staff here; training together has helped us develop a sense of camaraderie as well as mutual and self-respect. In my own department colleagues are both supportive and creative, which makes the job so much more rewarding. I have, at times, taken advantage of the range of staff sporting activities after school available at Latymer, adding to my sense of personal development. Finally, Latymer offers a friendly and supportive working environment, and I really look forward to coming to work in the morning.

SARAH O'NEILL: BIOLOGY

Training: GTP

Previous School(s): An Academy with a mixed comprehensive intake.

Opportunities at Latymer: I have had plenty of opportunities in my years of working at Latymer. In my first year, I became a BT mentor in which I was sent on numerous courses at King' College London to help me with this role. In the second year I then had the opportunity to be assistant Head of Year 12 to cover maternity leave for one year, which is a great opportunity to aid my career development. Following on from this I then became Head of Personal Development, and then added Careers co-ordinator under my belt. I have also more recently become assistant head to year 13 again. I

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: I am impressed by us having the social staffroom as well as a working staff room where every teacher has a desk. I also like the working staff room as it means we mix with teachers from different departments (which I did not get the opportunity to do at my last school). I come from Enfield myself and went to the local girls' comprehensive school. When coming for interview I had a pre-conception of the school and its day to day running however on my interview day I realised how relaxed and happy the atmosphere is here and I couldn't wait to start the following September.

NICHOLAS BRICE: HISTORY

Training: PGCE

Previous Schools: I had previously worked in the voluntary sector and at a primary school. Latymer represents my first full time teaching post.

Opportunities at Latymer: I am involved in the following activities; The History Society, The History Magazine and I have previously helped out with Year 8 and senior football. I have also been on trips to the outdoor pursuits centre in Wales, the House of Parliament and will be attending a sports tour of Cyprus. I have also run a historical trip to Normandy for the past six years. I have also supervised students who attended an Oxford Union qualifying debate.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: I enjoy working in an environment where you are able to explore and teach History in a way that interests the pupils, but also keeps them academically challenged. I have been able to get involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities that interest me, in particular sport, but have never felt pressure to do more than I wanted. I am part of a young and lively department which is allowed the freedom to improve and progress the curriculum taught, without over prescription from external organisations. The school has a relaxed ethos and this leads to a welcoming and friendly staff and I have really enjoyed my time here so far.

HENRIETTE FRITZSCH: GERMAN

Training: German State Exam in Secondary Education; GTP

Previous School(s): German grammar schools; large rural mixed comprehensive school

Opportunities at Latymer: When I first started at Latymer as an NQT more than 10 years ago I really loved working as a form tutor. I was encouraged to apply for an Assistant Head of Learning post and have worked in this role with my current year group for several many years now. I continue to hugely value the training opportunities on offer; I attend regular CPD courses and also had the chance to start learning French through one-on-one lessons with our Language Assistant. From the moment I joined the department I was involved in running the Year 10 German exchange, a great way to encourage language learning. At 6th Form level I teach literature extension classes, and have taken on responsibility for our library resources. For the first time this year I have also acted as a PGCE mentor a few times, a demanding but rewarding chance to reflect on my own classroom practice again.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: I love the strong pastoral focus we have here; there is a real sense of trust and care. Working with our dedicated support staff is a joy- this includes the languages assistants, learning support staff, librarians, office staff and also the cleaning and caretaking team who are absolutely brilliant. The sense of community, our bright and curious pupils and the colleagues committed to team working and sharing of ideas and resources make a huge difference.

STEFANIA OLIVELLI: CHEMISTRY

Training: PGCE

Previous School(s): Latymer was my first teaching post.

Opportunities at Latymer: Since starting at Latymer I have held different posts of responsibility. Early on I was happy to take on extra responsibility within the Science department co-ordinating a new ICT initiative and mentoring BTs. I then applied for an internal post as assistant careers co-ordinator which led to my current role as careers co-ordinator. This year the role has evolved to include responsibility for Work experience and setting up a Careers Fair. There are plenty of opportunities to be involved with working parties and I have been involved with the ICT curriculum group and AFL group. I am also keen to attend external INSET for my professional development and usually attend one a year.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: The students are a pleasure to teach, they are bright and motivated and many of them have a real interest in Science and go on to pursue careers in Science. I am really lucky to work in a supportive department and I enjoy interacting with colleagues many of whom have become good friends over the years. There are many school trips which take place at Latymer and I have really enjoyed going to Wales with year 7, Skiing in France and Austria, and a two week Science trip to Honduras.

STEVE LUNN - MATHS

Training: PGCE

Previous Schools: I spent 23 years working in IT for 5 companies as programmer, consultant and manager before jumping off the corporate career gravy train into a PGCE course. I spent my NQT first teaching year at a grammar school and a comprehensive school in east London.

Opportunities at Latymer: I run the Chess club and have delivered lunchtime classes to assist year 12 students step up from GCSE to AS Maths.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: I enjoy Maths and get great satisfaction teaching enthusiastic students who are willing to learn. I appreciate well thought through, considerate working practices and common sense bureaucracy, so the supportive and friendly Latymer Maths department is a very fulfilling place to work.

ALICE HAMILTON: HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY

Training: PGCE

Previous School(s): A mixed comprehensive school in Bermondsey

Opportunities at Latymer: I have been afforded many opportunities to further my professional development at Latymer. During my time I have been an Assistant Head of Year for the Sixth Form, as well as my current positions as Head of Department and part of the Teaching and Learning Team. Away from the classroom I have led excursions to our outdoor pursuits centre in Wales and residential fieldwork in Dorset, as well as numerous day field trips to Camber Sands and Kings Cross. I have also been lucky enough to be invited on trips to Berlin and Naples, as well as the regular geography trip to Iceland.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: The opportunity to teach some of the brightest students in London was an obvious attraction taking the job. You are constantly being challenged (in a good way) in the classroom by students who are keen to delve beyond the bullet points in the syllabus. Moreover, the support (and compliments) you receive from parents/carers is an added bonus too. The camaraderie with colleagues – staff fitness, parties, school trips, etc. – helps to make working in this highly-selective, high achieving school a real pleasure.

LUCY STEVENS: PE TEACHER

Training: SCITT

Previous Schools: Latymer is my first teaching post.

Opportunities at Latymer: As a member of the PE department, I have a large involvement in extra-curricular activities in sports such as netball, football and rounders. I have also been involved in netball tours to Shropshire and pastoral trips to the outdoor pursuits centre in Wales. This year, I will be attending a sports tour to Cyprus and specific netball trips. At the end of my first year at Latymer I became the Assistant Head of Year 7, which is a great opportunity to further my pastoral skills and career development.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: The enthusiasm, personality and general attitude of every student at Latymer is what I particularly enjoy about Latymer. Students are very polite and fully engaged in their studies, which helps to make lesson planning both exciting and appreciated. The school environment is happy and relaxed and I am part of an energetic and supportive department which allows me to explore my teaching ability and make quick progress. The staff atmosphere is friendly and supportive and I have very much enjoyed my time at Latymer so far.