

Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall



Teacher of Chemistry Post – From September 2018
MPS



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.

There are currently 1011 pupils on roll, including 361 in the Sixth Form. The School has an outstanding academic record and regularly features in the upper reaches of the national league tables. In 2017, 76% of GCSE grades were A*/A (or 7-9), and 73% of A Level grades were A*, A or B. Our GCSE Progress 8 score for 2017 was a nationally significant figure of 0.69; 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 a founding school of the Mercian Multi Academy Trust which was formed, along with four other Walsall schools, in January 2018.

The School encourages an enterprising and international outlook: in the past year students and staff have visited Borneo, Canada, Kunming (China), Geneva, Ypres and Barcelona for a variety of academic and extra-curricular opportunities. Find out more about these and many other activities on our website at: www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk

We want our 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 our Field 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

Science at Queen Mary's is a partnership of independent Biology, Chemistry and Physics departments. Each has its own identity and practices, but they work together closely and effectively on strategic issues. There is a good balance between experience and enthusiasm amongst the teachers, and there are exciting opportunities for purposeful career development. Science staff are serious about the job of realising the potential of every student, but they enjoy the process too. The popularity of the three sciences at Queen Mary's is reflected by the imminent expansion of the Science Block.

Our pupils follow a general science course in Year 7, and are taught the three sciences separately from Year 8 through to Year 11. The ideal candidate for this post will be a chemistry specialist with the ability to teach another science at Key Stage 3.

The Chemistry department at Queen Mary's is a happy and rewarding place to work. The Head of Department is Dr Chris Pilkington, bringing great enthusiasm in leading the department and in stretching the most able to aim high. There are currently five other members of staff: Dr Nicki Rowley, Miss Marwa Husein, Mr Daniel Clough, Mrs Eileen Mansfield, and Mr Michael Kearsey. We are fortunate to have such an experienced, motivated and highly qualified staff.

Chemistry enjoys outstanding success in examinations: 76% of the 2017 GCSE cohort obtained A* or A grades. It is no surprise, then, that it is amongst the most popular A Level subjects in the school and there will be six sets in both Year 12 and Year 13 in 2018/19. At this level, 94% gained A*-C grades in 2017. This job opportunity therefore provides the chance to teach gifted children from Year 7 all the way up to Year 13.

Just as important to the department are the extracurricular opportunities it offers to inspire and challenge its pupils: we take regular trips to the Birmingham University Sixth Form Lectures and the Ecton Hill Copper mine; enter pupils in external competitions, such as the Chemistry Olympiad; and, this year have launched an Organic Synthesis Club, grounding pupils in the artistry of the discipline.

The position



Job Description:

The successful candidate will:

- teach Chemistry from Year 8 to Year 13
- be prepared to teach General Science in Year 7 and, ideally, another science at Key Stage 3
- plan and teach challenging and differentiated lessons which enable high levels of progress
- maintain discipline in lessons to ensure that learning can take place
- monitor and mark pupils' work, giving constructive feedback to aid improved performance
- 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 chemistry teaching in the school
- You will have a commitment to 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 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.

Closing date: Wednesday 25th April

Interviews: W/C Monday 30th April

The Mercian Trust

Queen Mary's Grammar School is a Founder Academy of a Multi-Academy Trust or MAT. This is a group of schools working together for the benefit of all their pupils.

According to the National Schools Commissioner, Sir David Carter, MATs exist:

- To secure school improvement and develop people
- To encourage good governance and proper risk management
- To secure the financial health of all its academies

We sign up to those ambitions. In our MAT, the Mercian Trust, we choose to pursue life to the full in the business of education.

The name of our Trust is significant. It is both rooted in royal history and expresses a geographical identity. *Mercia* was an ancient kingdom comprising parts of Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and, crucially for us, what we now call the Black Country. It was in Mercia that St Chad established *learning communities* which fostered a sense of common purpose. A thousand years ago, they spoke of *bonds of kinship*. Today, we want to adopt the same spirit in our approach to relationships within the MAT. So we very much hope that Y7 pupils joining us in 2018 will feel that they are not only members of Queen Mary's Grammar School, but also of a wider *family* of schools.

We are convinced that we are stronger together. The Mercian Trust is already helping to shape the educational landscape in exciting ways. We welcome *you* to be part of that story.

The Founder Academies of The Mercian Trust are:

- Aldridge School
- Queen Mary's Grammar School
- Queen Mary's High School
- Shire Oak Academy
- Walsall Studio School



Our schools prepare pupils to live life to the full by equipping them to realise their full potential as learners; to thrive in the world of work; and to make a positive contribution to the local, national and international community.

You may have heard about some MATs that seem to have turned into big businesses. That is not our view of what education should be about. That is why Queen Mary's Grammar School wanted to be right at the heart of decision making of what our MAT should look like.

The Mercian Trust respects the autonomy of its member schools but, through collaboration, it will foster strengths greater than the sum of its parts. Put simply, the Trust provides a framework for sharing expertise, enthusiasm and experience. We think that is exciting ...



Timothy Swain
Chief Executive Officer
The Mercian Trust

