



Prior Park Schools

Head of Modern Foreign Languages

Information for candidates

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The School

Prior Park College is one of the group of Prior Park Schools which includes our junior school, The Paragon, Bath, and our sister school, Prior Park Gibraltar. The heart of Prior Park Schools is the encouraging Christian ethos which nurtures over 1,000 pupils aged between 3 and 18 years to become confident, capable, compassionate and independently minded young people.

With over 600 pupils, Prior Park College is one of the most successful Catholic independent boarding and day schools in the South West of England. Set in a stunning location of 57 acres, overlooking the World Heritage city of Bath, the college offers an exceptional and stimulating environment for students to study, play and live.

The College aims to inspire and challenge every one of its students to prepare them for the next stage of their lives. We pride ourselves on our outstanding pastoral care and promote an environment that successfully supports personal development. We strive to ensure that students meets their potential. We stretch but also support our learners, making Prior a particularly exciting and rewarding place to teach.

The 2017 ISI Inspection Report accorded the quality of pupils' academic and other achievements as "excellent", finding that pupils have "a tremendous appetite for learning in and beyond the

classroom". "Pupils demonstrate excellent knowledge and understanding in all areas of learning, display outstanding communications skills... are articulate... listen actively... demonstrate first rate writing skills... are positive... and display great self-esteem".

The Person

We are looking for an inspirational Head of Modern Foreign Languages from September 2020 who will maintain or improve the outstanding quality of language of language provision in one of the school's top performing departments. The position will suit someone who plans to use innovative techniques to continue to develop the already high profile of Modern Foreign Languages through the running of curriculum initiatives and co-curricular provision, as well as a genuine interest in teaching and learning.

The post would suit an experienced applicant looking to provide inspiring leadership to a team of dedicated teachers in an intellectually stimulating, vibrant and challenging environment. It is expected that they will already be playing an important role in the MFL Department of a similar school or already be a Head of Department who is looking to expand their experience. The ideal candidate would have an excellent command of French plus a suitable level of either Spanish or Mandarin. It is essential that any candidate has the ability to teach two of our three major languages.

We welcome applications from people of all faiths and none but an understanding of and support for the school's Catholic/Christian ethos is important for all staff. All teachers are expected to play a full part in the wider extra-curricular life of this busy boarding and day school.

The Department

The MFL Department is well known throughout the school and the local area for innovation through the use of ICT, the provision of alternative language qualifications and also their outstanding results. The department comprises of six full-time teachers, one part-time and eight peripatetic teachers, who are all line managed by The Head of Modern Foreign Languages. At present French and Spanish is taught up to KS5 and Mandarin is currently taught up to KS4 but this will increase as the 'phasing in' process continues. In addition to the mainstream languages Cantonese, Russian, Italian, Korean and Japanese are also on offer as peripatetic subjects and these are mainly taught off-timetable. The Department's A Level numbers are some of the strongest in the region and so the promotion of MFL is highly valued in the college.

The average set sizes are:

8 - 12 at students at KS5

24 students KS4

22 students KS3



Language Provision at PPC

All students study French, Spanish and Mandarin in Year 7 and then take two languages forward to Year 8 and ideally Year 9. Taking a language at IGCSE is highly recommended although non-compulsory and those taking Mandarin Chinese have the option to sit HSK examinations in Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11. A Level numbers have doubled in recent years and the idea is for it to remain a popular choice for students of all abilities at KS5.

Results

In 2019 70% of IGCSE students achieved grades 7 – 9 and 53% of A Level students achieved grades A – A*. The department is known for pushing students to achieve the best grades possible.

Resources and Accommodation

The department has four main classrooms, which are equipped with interactive whiteboards, projectors and speakers. A wide variety of online services are also available to students to allow them to further their learning beyond the four walls of the classroom.

In order to provide the very best experience and outcomes for our students, from September 2020 all students will have personal learning devices with touchscreen functionality, running Windows 10 and the Office 365 suite. Devices will have the capacity for inking directly onto the screen.





Super-Curricular Activities & Trips

We believe that it is vital to promote interest and enthusiasm for language learning through competitions, trips and online activities.

A trip to either France or Spain takes place on an alternating basis every year for KS4 pupils, as well as work experience trips for KS5. This year will also see the school's first trip to China.

In addition to the range of trips offered, the MFL Department often invites guest speakers to share their expertise with the students and takes advantage of local linguistic societies and bookshops to offer further opportunities for enrichment. We offer additional classes for those applying to Oxbridge (Autumn Term) and promote the college essay competitions aimed at A Level students. Students are also prepared for Spelling Bee and regional speaking competitions, which have proved hugely popular in recent years.

The Position

Summary of Responsibilities

- To lead the department through effective teaching, professional vision and knowledge
- To write an annual report for the HM including a Departmental Development Plan
- To maintain and develop appropriate schemes of work
- To arrange the recruitment and deployment of teaching staff, in consultation with departmental members, the Deputy Head (Academic) and Timetabler
- To oversee the production of the departmental handbook
- To monitor the quality of teaching and learning within the department through observation, testing and team management
- To act as a UCAS advisor
- To promote super-curricular activities related to the subject
- To oversee external examination entries and all internal examinations
- To attend meetings of the Academic Committee
- To ensure that Health and Safety procedures are followed
- To play an appropriate part in Teacher Appraisal
- To liaise with tutors over matters of individual pupil progress and behaviour
- To develop and monitor a departmental marking policy that fits within the school framework for marking
- To maintain and monitor appropriate pupil learning/achievement records
- To produce and bid for and manage the departmental budget
- To guide the writing and quality of reports in the subject, the provision of subject information to parents, attendance by department members at Parents' Evenings and response to subject-related parental enquiries
- To monitor the quality of the teaching environment and to liaise with the Deputy Head of Academic as necessary
- To conduct and minute departmental meetings and make available to the Senior Leadership Team

- To encourage the sharing of good practice in the department and promote professional development opportunities to all departmental members
- To mentor new teachers and NQTs
- To run various trips throughout the year (often during school holidays)



The Benefits

The school has high expectations of staff and therefore rewards them with a generous salary scale and beneficial conditions of service.

Class sizes are small and the teaching facilities are excellent – especially the IT provision.

Staff have strong, positive working relationships and cite the common room as a supportive and friendly group of individuals.

Career

There is an extensive induction programme for all new colleagues and we encourage ongoing professional development through generous CPD provision at a school, department and individual level.

Individual support and coaching for career progression, internally and externally is provided by members of the Senior Management Team.

Personal

Membership of a Pension Scheme

Life Assurance

Ill health retirement benefits

Typically generous sick and maternity/paternity arrangements

School Nurse on site

Free onsite parking

Cycle to Work scheme

A Lenovo Yoga for use at work and home

Free use of the school's gym, pool and other facilities

Free lunch and refreshments available throughout the working day

Fee concessions are available for the children of any member of the academic faculty who meet the school's entry requirements

Free access to the National Trust Prior Park Landscape Garden

The Process

Please complete an application form and include a supporting letter outlining your suitability for the post; Application forms can be downloaded from the Prior Park Schools website www.priorparkschools.com

The closing date is 20 January 2020 at midnight

Interviews to be held on 31 January 2020

Applications can be sent by email to: recruitment@priorparkschools.com

Or by post to:

Recruitment – HR Department

Prior Park College

Ralph Allen Drive

Bath

BA2 5AH

For an informal chat or to answer any questions relating to this position, please contact Jack George on jgeorge@priorparkschools.com

Child Protection

Prior Park Educational Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Data Protection

In the course of employment at Prior Park Educational Trust, staff may have access to confidential information relating to pupils and their families and are required to exercise due consideration in the way they use such information. Staff should not act in any way which might be prejudicial to the School's interest. Information which may be included in the category covers both the general business of the school and information regarding specific individuals. A strict code of confidentiality must be adhered to at all times. The School is registered under the Data Protection Act 2018 and operates under policies that meet General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Staff must not at any time use the personal data held by the school or disclose such data to a third person.

