

## **TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS**

### **Permanent/Fixed-Term Contract**

### **Full-Time, Full-Year**

Whitgift is one of Britain's leading independent day and boarding schools for boys aged between 10 and 18 years with approximately 1500 pupils and over one hundred boarding or flexi-boarding pupils. The School, which was founded in 1596 by Elizabeth I's last Archbishop of Canterbury, John Whitgift, is one of the oldest in Croydon and enjoys facilities of outstanding quality, amongst the best available nationally. It is set in an attractive 48-acre parkland site in South Croydon with excellent links to London, Surrey and the south coast.

#### **The Vacancy**

The Department is very dynamic and expectations within the School are high. The successful candidate must be someone who is confident, proactive and reflective about their teaching, has excellent communication skills, is capable of contributing positively within a team and is committed to raising attainment through excellent teaching and learning.

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and dedicated graduate who possesses a genuine passion for Mathematics alongside a capacity to share this effectively with pupils of all ages. A commitment to maintaining the high standards of the department would be expected, and there is excellent scope for an inspirational teacher to develop and apply their skills and knowledge at all levels. Involvement in the wider activities of the department would be expected, and the ability to teach Further Mathematics modules and help prepare pupils for Oxbridge may be an advantage.

The position is suitable for someone who is new to teaching and looking to challenge themselves academically, newly qualified teachers or for a more experienced candidate who has the skills to enrich this already successful department. The ability to work as a team is essential and candidates will also need to have good IT skills.

A proactive culture of supporting and developing talented and inspiring teachers is supported by the Senior Management Team. Training and development includes:

- regular in-house training for all teaching staff
- NQT induction programme for unqualified teachers
- School Direct programme to support those new to the profession.

As a Boarding School, stimulating opportunities may be available for the right candidate to contribute to the pastoral care of students as a Boarding Tutor, both resident and non-resident along with a wide range of co-curricular activities.

The position reports to the Head of Mathematics.

## **The Mathematics Department**

The Mathematics Department at Whitgift consists of 17 graduates, who deliver the Mathematics curriculum throughout the School from Year 6 to Year 13. There is a wealth of experience, with several of the department involved in other roles within the School. The Head of Mathematics, assisted by the Deputy Head of Mathematics, oversees the day to day running of the department, and all members are expected to contribute towards this as appropriate. The Department is dynamic and confident, bringing together teachers with interests in a variety of fields within the subject, and the team works together excellently. Mathematics is presented as a vibrant subject in its own right whilst, alongside this, recognising the importance its application holds. It is the most popular subject in the Sixth Form.

The majority of lessons from Year 8 upwards are taught in dedicated Maths classrooms, all with white boards and projectors. There are Interactive White Boards in three classrooms and training opportunities are available to help staff wishing to develop their use of mathematical software and graphical calculators in their teaching. There is also a Maths store room and office, currently the work space for 12 members of the department. Extensive collaboration and levels of support are central to the department in working to encourage and inspire boys of all ages.

Mathematics is a core subject throughout the curriculum to age 16. In the Lower School (Years 6-8), there are two broad aims: to develop and nurture a familiarity and enthusiasm for the subject and to introduce and utilise the more formal processes which lead into the examination years.

## **Curriculum**

In the Third, Fourth and Fifth Form (Years 9-11), the boys work towards the Edexcel International GCSE: in 2020 the results were 62% 9-8 and 85% 9-7. At present, around 50 boys take the OCR Additional Maths qualification in Year 11.

In the Sixth Form, boys choose between A Levels and the International Baccalaureate. With 2 different levels and 4 different courses which was revamped for September 2019, Mathematics is a compulsory part of the IB Diploma with levels being awarded out of a maximum 7 points; last years' results were 88% 7-5 across the old Higher Level and Standard Level.

## **Academic Results**

For those taking the A Level route, the OCR MEI course is followed for both Mathematics and Further Mathematics. In addition to those studying the IB, Mathematics is a hugely popular choice, with over 140 of the current Sixth form studying the subject. The results at Maths A Level for 2020 were 100% A\*-B, with 83% of boys achieving an A\* or A grade. A good number of students opt to take Further Maths, with 100% achieving A\*-B in 2020.

		2020	2019	2018
GCSE	9 - 7	85%	82%	88%
A Level	A* - B	100%	94%	82%
IB (all)	7 – 5	88%	93%	91%

The Mathematics Department is delighted that each year there are a number of boys who wish to continue their study of the subject further and go on to read Mathematics-related courses at university. Whitgift has a superb record of success at Oxford, Cambridge and other top universities in this respect, and helping students to prepare for their applications and for STEP/MAT exams can be a particularly rewarding experience. There are also many other applications for Maths related degrees who are offered significant support by the Department.

### Co-Curricular Activities

Junior and Senior Maths Societies offer structured opportunities for those seeking extension work to explore material beyond the syllabus, and the School takes part in a number of challenges and competitions, with Maths Competition Training another co-curricular opportunity in the subject, as well as giving boys the chance to consider the applications of the subject as part of the School's STEM program. A biennial residential trip to Cambridge has been established, offering the best pupils the opportunity to explore exciting topics outside the classroom environment and to work in mixed age groups on a range of Olympiad style problems.

### Teaching and Learning through Digital Strategy

We believe that technology is becoming ever more widely used in society. As part of a wide-reaching Digital Strategy, we have identified several areas where we think technology can be of benefit to Learning and Teaching at Whitgift School. The aim is to allow users to access a broader range of resources and information that can be significantly more efficient than research through traditional methods. With this in mind, we have begun a rollout of laptop devices initially to all of our first form students. The laptops may be used to access eBooks or more up-to-date resources as well as enabling collaborative work with different pupils contributing to one finished piece.

As part of our Junior Years Curriculum (from Lower First to Second Form), we aim to challenge pupils with serious academic rigour, preparing them for success at GCSE and beyond, while enthusing them with a love of learning, intellectual curiosity about the wider world and the skills to be independent thinkers and learners. We have now introduced Global Citizenship as a taught subject. Last term the Lower First were introduced to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and they have been learning about climate change, poverty and food security, and plastics in the ocean. Second Formers also have timetabled lessons on 'Ignite', through which they are being taught about Global Citizenship and independent project skills.

## Contact

Please feel free to contact Mr Chi Cheng, Head of Mathematics via e-mail at [chc@whitgift.co.uk](mailto:chc@whitgift.co.uk) if you have questions regarding the vacancy or would like to know more.

## Conditions of Service

The salary will be on the Whitgift Foundation scale (substantially above national scale) according to qualifications and experience. Accommodation may be available. Assistance is offered towards removal expenses etc., up to £1,000 in total.

Staff are required to make a significant contribution to the co-curricular life of the School and this is reflected in the salary offered. A strong commitment to the pastoral and house system is also anticipated.

We offer a generous salary and benefits package including membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (including Life Assurance cover), Employee Discount Club, discount on school fees for the Foundation Schools (permanent posts only), staff discount on off-peak membership at our on-site gym (Nuffield Health), membership of a healthcare plan, a range of family-friendly benefits and season ticket loan.

We welcome applications from all parts of our community as we aspire to attract staff that matches the social and cultural diversity of our student intake.

For further information and an online application form, please visit [www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies](http://www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies). For any general queries, please telephone the School Human Resources Department on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail [SchoolHR@whitgift.co.uk](mailto:SchoolHR@whitgift.co.uk).

Applications will be reviewed daily and interviews may occur at any stage after applications are received so we invite interested candidates to apply as soon as possible.

As a result of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, employers now have to verify that new recruits who are not British Nationals are eligible to work in this country. Therefore, any applicant who is offered an interview will be asked to provide official documentation to verify their ID, address and right to work in the UK. It is also normal practice for the School to ask for original qualifications and professional membership documents as detailed on their application.

***Whitgift School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service.***

January 2021