



Durham High School

Teacher of Chemistry

Part-time 0.7-0.9 (FTE)


THE SUNDAY TIMES

**SCHOOLS GUIDE
2025**

**INDEPENDENT SECONDARY
SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
NORTH EAST**

Welcome

Thank you for considering Durham High School for the next stage of your career in education. Ours is a community where ambition thrives, talents are celebrated, and lifelong friendships are formed. As a leading independent school in the North East, we consistently achieve the highest GCSE and A Level results in County Durham.

In December, we were proud to be named The Sunday Times Independent Secondary School of the Year 2025 – a reflection of the outstanding education and care we offer.

We are currently seeking a part-time Chemistry Teacher, a position that has become available due to the retirement of a valued colleague. This is a wonderful opportunity to inspire the next generation of scientists in a forward-thinking and supportive environment.

We recently announced a phased move to co-education: from Nursery to Year 6 by September 2025, and from Year 7 to Sixth Form by September 2026. While the structure of our school evolves, our foundation remains the same. Academic excellence, personal development, and our Christian ethos continue to guide all that we do. Our aim is to nurture each pupil's potential and to foster a lifelong love of learning.

In a beautiful woodland setting with excellent facilities and a dedicated team of teachers and support staff, Durham High School is a place where pupils grow in both confidence and character.

Our recent strategic partnership with Galaxy Global Education brings new and exciting opportunities for growth and international collaboration.

If you have the skills, experience, and passion for this role, we warmly invite you to apply. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes
Michelle Hill
Headmistress



The Position



We have an exciting opportunity for a **part time Chemistry Teacher** to join our thriving Science Department. Timetabled hours will be 0.7-0.9 (FTE).

Organisation of the Department

Chemistry is taught as a separate subject throughout the school. There is an emphasis on learning through practical work in all years, and pupils enjoy this very much. In Years 7-9 the pupils have four 55-minute periods of each Science subject per fortnight. Year 7 and 8 are taught in mixed ability tutor groups. The National Curriculum programmes of study are followed at Key Stage 3 in Years 7 and 8, following an in-house scheme of work. The AQA specification for GCSE Chemistry is followed in Year 9, as the pupils commence their Key Stage 4 studies.

At the end of Year 9, pupils opt to either, follow AQA GCSE Chemistry or AQA Trilogy(combined science).

GCSE Chemistry: While numbers vary from year to year, approximately half of pupils normally opt for the separate sciences and most pupils are entered for the higher tier of the examination. GCSE Chemistry classes have 6, 55 minute lessons per fortnight.

Trilogy: Chemistry classes have 4, 55 minute lessons per fortnight. Group sizes may vary with the cohort but will never exceed 24.

Chemistry is a popular subject within the school and successful at recruiting A-level students. Maximum class size for A level is 13. Pupils have eleven lessons per fortnight.

Facilities

Facilities

The Science Department facilities are outstanding and there are two laboratories for each of the three sciences with an office for each Head of Department, a large preparation room, greenhouse and a Science Staff Room. All the laboratories are well equipped with Interactive screens and IT facilities and a class set of laptop computers. The Department receives brilliant technical support from a Laboratory Manager and team of technicians.

Extracurricular Activities

All staff contribute to at least one extracurricular activity which may or may not be related to their specialism. The Science department organises STEM clubs, trips and participates in competitions across all Key Stages. For example, in 2023 a Year 8 group project was selected as the North East Regional Winner of the 'Step into the NHS' competition and a L6 group were shortlisted into the top 10 nationally for the Institute of Civil Engineers 'CityZen' video competition. All teachers help to link curriculum learning with careers and promote extracurricular learning opportunities. 'Science Sparks' is an outreach programme for enthusiastic Year 6 pupils from partnership primary schools, and our own Year 6 pupils.



Our Heritage

The school was founded in 1884 by the Church Schools' Company and in 1910 the school's governing body took over and formed an independent school for girls aged 3-18.

In the 1960s, Durham High School moved to our current site, its first purpose-built premises on the edge of the city adjacent to the new Durham University colleges.

Our Aims:

- To create a friendly, caring community based on Christian principles where every individual is valued
- To develop the potential of every pupil in all areas of their life
- To encourage academic excellence and a life-long love of learning

We are keen to widen access as much as possible, with means-tested bursaries, and academic scholarships, to enable as many pupils as possible to attend the school from a wide area.

Our Location

Durham High School is ideally located in the heart of Durham City in the North East of England, with excellent transport links.

The school is just a few miles from Durham train station, providing direct rail connections to Newcastle, Edinburgh, and London. It is also easily accessible via the A1(M) motorway, connecting to major road networks across the region.

Newcastle International Airport is about 30 minutes away, offering domestic and international flights.

Our Results

In 2024 82.6% of pupils achieved grades A*-B at A Level, which was significantly higher than national average. 63% of all grades were A*-A.

At GCSE, the proportion of top grades (9-7) was 67.8%, which is significantly higher than regional and national averages.

Job description

Remuneration; DH1-9 Salary Scale depending on experience

Accountable to Head of Chemistry

Maximise the potential of all pupils in the class

- Be an excellent classroom practitioner.
- Maintain a positive working atmosphere in your classes, foster a spirit of enquiry, a love of knowledge and a delight in the pursuit of excellence.
- Maintain a stimulating educational environment in your classroom.
- Teach pupils how to learn and think as well as to know and understand.
- Teach according to Departmental schemes of work and to work as part of a team, in harmony with the school's ethos, aims and priorities.
- Use data to inform planning and teaching.
- Actively promote the use of IT to engage pupils.
- Be aware of the need to differentiate work and challenges according to the ability of the pupils, whilst maintaining high expectations of all and taking full account of any Special Educational Needs

- Teach lessons that are inclusive for all pupils and that use diverse and inclusive materials.
- Teach the strategies needed to pass exams.
- Know about pupils' personal circumstances that may affect your teaching and pupils' learning.
- Mark accurately and constructively according to school guidelines. Keep clear records of pupil attendance (SIMS) and performance according to school guidelines.
- Set and mark work for classes in the event of your absence.
- Ensure that pupils' efforts are properly rewarded.
- Ensure that homework is appropriately set.
- Follow and implement the school's curriculum policies.
- Support interventions within the subject area to encourage academic excellence.
- Complete equipment requisitions for practical activities in line with the department policy.

Job description

Contribute to the work of the Chemistry Department

- Contribute to the subject area or department documentation, the construction and review of schemes of work, sets of resources and departmental administration.
- Share resources and ideas and disseminate examples of good practice.
- Attend subject meetings
- Act as an advocate for your subject area and advise pupils about A Level choices at the appropriate times (if applicable).
- To ensure resources are used effectively and kept in good order.
- Contribute to the setting, management, marking and administration of internal examinations and scholarship papers.
- Organise and take part in subject area trips and visits.
- Work with the SEND department to provide pupil support.
- Contribute to revision sessions as appropriate.
- Maintain a safe working environment in the laboratories.

Contribute to the all-round education that the school offers

- Contribute to the department's co-curricular programme.
- Contribute to the department's outreach programme.
- Contribute to external competitions in Chemistry
- Make recommendations to the librarian for your subject area



Job description



Contribute to the corporate life of the school

- Uphold the school ethos and rules, taking due regard for professional standards and advice from senior staff.
- Take responsibility for the behaviour of pupils directly in your care and at other times if the situation warrants, apply school sanctions consistently.
- Help colleagues who may experience difficulties in their role.
- Take part in duties as may be reasonably directed by the school's leadership team.
- To cover for colleagues as directed by the school's leadership team.
- Contribute to the spiritual life of the school by attending assembly and occasionally contributing to assemblies.
- Attend staff meetings.
- Complete administrative tasks according to deadlines and with due regard for colleagues.
- To invigilate internal and Public Examination

Foster your own professional development

- Take part in Staff Induction, Professional Development and Annual Review, and INSET events. Undertake relevant CPD.
- Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of your subject and associated pedagogy through reading and further training.
- Attend staff working groups to develop good practice

Promote the school

- Act as an advocate for the school both in and out of school.
- Contribute to marketing publications.
- Contribute to marketing events and Open Days.

Understand the importance of safeguarding

- In line with our commitment to safeguarding, all members of staff have a duty of care towards Durham High School pupils and are expected to report any such concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Complete weekly break time and lunchtime duties as per the rota and Homework Club duties as allocated.

Contribute to the wider community

- Work in a manner that promotes and protects own health and safety, as well as that of other staff, pupils and visitors.
- Any other reasonable task requested by the Headmistress. This job description will be reviewed annually and amended to meet the needs of the school.**

The Person



Skills Required

- Ability to teach Chemistry up to A Level - **Essential**
- Ability to teach general science to KS3 - **Essential**
- Ability to use a range of teaching strategies in order to meet the needs of all students - **Essential**
- Sound behaviour management skills and discipline, both inside and outside the classroom - **Essential**
- Dedication to promoting your subject within the school and marketing within and outside school - **Essential**
- Excellent interpersonal skills, able to work effectively and harmoniously with others- **Essential**
- Ability to work on own initiative and react to competing demands - **Essential**
- Ability to maintain confidentiality - **Essential**
- Confident user of IT to aid administration and learning - **Essential**

Knowledge Base

- Experience of working in a successful department up to KS5 level - **Desirable**
- Good understanding and knowledge of current and new examination specifications - **Essential**
- Knowledge of SEND and students with individual learning needs - **Essential**

Qualification/Attainment

- Qualified teacher status - **Essential**
- Good honours degree in Chemistry or related subject - **Essential**
- Master's Degree - **Desirable**

Experience

- Successful experience of teaching a range of key stages - **Essential**
- Awareness of health and safety requirements relevant to the job - **Essential**
- Proven experience of successfully contributing to or running extra curricular clubs and activities - **Desirable**
- Experience of working within a successful team - **Desirable**

The Person



Attitude/approach

- Enthusiastic, positive and hard working - **Essential**
- A passion for education - **Essential**
- Commitment to the safeguarding of children and young people - **Essential**
- Ability to inspire, motivate and support pupils - **Essential**
- Flexible and approachable attitude - **Essential**
- Ability to solve problems, make sound judgements and take decisions - **Essential**
- Ability to work under pressure, on own initiative, accurately and with attention to detail - **Essential**
- Commitment to the improvement and development of own teaching and performance - **Essential**



Senior Department

In the Senior Department, a broad and balanced curriculum prepares pupils with the skills and academic excellence needed for life in the 21st century. We believe enjoyment is key to success.

Our dynamic and dedicated staff strive to achieve the best outcomes for every pupil. Lessons are engaging and foster curiosity, ambition, and a drive to succeed. Strong pastoral care ensures each pupil feels valued within a happy, supportive community.

An extensive extra-curricular programme supports individual interests, with opportunities in sport, drama, art, and more. Pupils often achieve success at local, regional, and national levels. Clubs range from astronomy and dance to journalism, photography, and practical science. Day, residential, and international trips further enrich pupils' experiences.

A strong sense of community defines Durham High School, where every pupil is known, valued, and encouraged to care for others while respecting differences.

Pupil voice is central to school life, with leadership opportunities through School Council, Eco Council, Interact Charity, and other roles across the Senior Department, allowing pupils to make meaningful contributions.

Whole school events and cross-year activities foster friendships and a sense of belonging. While academic standards are high, pupils are supported to balance their studies with wider interests and wellbeing.

We prioritise spiritual and moral development, positive mental health, and wellbeing. Our PSHCCE programme helps pupils explore the challenges of modern life through discussion and debate.



Sixth Form



We are proud of the vibrant and welcoming community that defines the Sixth Form at Durham High School, renowned for its consistent record of outstanding A Level achievement.

Our caring and supportive environment empowers every pupil to reach their full academic potential, while also nurturing self-confidence, a strong moral compass, and the leadership skills essential for success in today's world. Life in the Sixth Form is occasionally challenging, but never dull – and always immensely rewarding. We believe these two years are among the most fulfilling of our pupils' school journey, offering exceptional preparation for university and life beyond.

The Sixth Form is a close-knit, dynamic community where pupils can relax and connect in their dedicated common room, private study area, and exclusive diner. Each pupil benefits from the guidance of a personal Tutor, who offers both pastoral care and academic mentoring.

To enrich their academic experience, pupils take part in a varied programme that includes topics such as Democracy in Action, Astronomy, and Life Skills. A series of lectures by visiting experts across a range of fields further broadens their horizons.

ISI Inspection

Durham High School was judged 'Excellent' across all areas by the latest inspection carried out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) in October 2022.

The school succeeded in fulfilling every standard examined during the Regulatory Compliance Inspection, where each standard is simply 'met' or 'not met': there is no evaluative judgement in the report beyond this.

This inspection includes the standards of the quality of education; the suitability of staff and those in contact with our pupils; the welfare of our young people and their moral, social and cultural development. We also met every requirement relating to the premises and the provision of information.



The key findings in the Educational Quality Inspection were:

The quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is excellent.

- Girls make excellent progress and achieve highly in both academic and other areas.
- Girls' knowledge, skills and understanding are excellent across all areas of learning.
- Girls of all ages are excellent communicators who listen well and express themselves articulately both orally and in writing.
- Girls demonstrate excellent study skills. Their attitudes to learning are outstanding and underpin the high levels of achievement throughout the school.

The quality of the pupils' personal development is excellent.

- Girls display an extremely strong moral awareness and have a clear understanding of right and wrong.
- Girls show outstanding levels of respect; they value diversity and demonstrate sensitivity and tolerance towards others.
- Girls' social development is excellent; they collaborate extremely well in lessons and extracurricular activities.
- Girls make an excellent contribution to the life of the school, the local community and the world beyond.

Additional Benefits



The successful applicant will benefit from:

- Being part of a fantastically vibrant and supportive community with the most amazing and enthusiastic pupils.
- Royal London defined contribution pension scheme.
- Free onsite parking.
- Lunch provided each day during term time
- 50% staff fee remission scheme for staff children from Reception to Sixth Form.
- Employee assistance programme (Education Support).
- Blue Light reward card.
- Access to in school counsellor.



How to Apply



Please complete the application form, available on the School's website, and submit as a pdf document, with a covering letter of no more than 2 sides of A4 (pdf), outlining your reasons for applying and why you will be a good fit for our school community.

· Your application should be addressed for the attention of the Headmistress and sent by email to :
headmistress@dhsfg.org.uk.

· Closing date for applications: Wednesday 23 April 2025, 9.00am

· Interviews will be held week commencing: 28 April 2025.



Safeguarding and Safer recruitment

Durham High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure and Prohibition from teaching and management check

In addition, as part of the shortlisting process, Durham High School will carry out an online search on the shortlisted candidates as part of its due diligence, as per the governments 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' document (September 2024)

Equal Opportunities

The School is committed to the principles of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion. We are committed to attracting and retaining the very best staff and ensuring that our staff body reflects the diversity of our students and local community.

