

**Head of English  
Required for September 2020**

**FURTHER PARTICULARS**

**Person Specification**

The chosen applicant will be a well-qualified English graduate with an enthusiastic and dynamic approach to the study of English. A genuine passion and love of literature is essential as they will be expected to promote a real engagement with the subject, as well as facilitate and encourage independent learning. The successful candidate will be able to confidently lead a team of enthusiastic and dedicated teachers by providing a clear and ambitious vision and opportunities for collaboration and professional development.

**Key Skills / Qualities**

The English department, and indeed the School, aims to provide and promote a stimulating and ambitious learning environment. Consequently, the chosen person will have the versatility to enthuse students and colleagues throughout the school.

The successful applicant will be highly committed to the subject, be well-organised and able to delegate effectively when necessary. They will be sensitive to the needs of others and an effective communicator, as well as able to create a culture of high expectations and meaningful support.

**Line Management**

The post-holder will be directly responsible to the Deputy Head (Curriculum). As all members of staff are also expected to take on a pastoral role in the school, they will also be directly responsible to the relevant Section Head (Middle School, Upper School or Sixth Form) with regards to their duties in this area.

**Responsibilities**

Throughout the school we aim to promote a real interest and engagement with literature, and to facilitate and encourage independence and a love of learning. The Head of Department's responsibility is to lead in the cultivation of such an environment. We regard this as being of central importance in all of our students' lives; English is a subject that all girls hold in high regard, thanks to the belief shown in them by teachers and the joy of learning that is modelled by all colleagues in the department.

## **THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

### **Aims**

The English Department aims to promote and nurture an engagement with and enthusiasm for literary study throughout the school. We aim to stimulate students to read beyond the confines of curricula and to pursue their studies beyond the classroom. As is the case throughout the school, we aim to encourage the students to think independently, raise challenging viewpoints and produce rigorous scholarly work that they can take pride in.

### **The Department**

The English Department is both vibrant and very successful and has a high profile throughout the school. It is one of our most successful departments, with results always placing our students among the very best in the county at both GCSE and Sixth Form level. There are ten full and part-time teachers in the department, all of whom have their own specialties and areas of interest, but also who share a common desire to show students the power of literature.

### **The Curriculum**

Throughout the school, much emphasis is placed on the study of English Literature. At Key Stage 3 classes read a pre-twentieth century novel as well as a modern one, a Shakespeare play and a modern one, and a variety of poetry. Importance is also attached to creative writing, effective oral communication, drama and media study. All students currently take both English Language and Literature IGCSE at the end of Year 11. A large number of students choose to study English Literature in Years 12 and 13, either through the International Baccalaureate or the Pre-U course; many go on to read English at university, a significant number of them at Oxford or Cambridge. Throughout the School we aim to promote a real interest and engagement in the subject, and to facilitate and encourage independent learning in every possible way.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

The vibrancy of the Department is most forthrightly seen in its endeavours beyond the curriculum. Reading Groups and Writing Groups for all ages meet regularly and there are several writing competitions each year. We produce several publications such as creative writing journals and we invite speakers and lecturers to supplement classroom study. We organise a number of annual trips to the theatre to support the study of texts and a biennial trip to Dublin over the October half-term alongside the History Department. The English Department is responsible for the Debating Society: debates are held every week, along both British Parliamentary and the English Speaking Union formats and teams are entered for national competitions. The Literary and Dramatic Society, for which the department is also responsible, invites speakers to the school and organises regular outings to the theatre in the evenings. We also run a Film and Media Society and two Creative Writing Groups.

Like other Departments, we take a full part in the symposia and partnerships with other schools such as Eton and Whitgift, and run our own initiatives with Henrietta Barnet School, building upon work we already do to stretch our students beyond the syllabuses.

## **External opportunities**

There is a strong culture of professional development at the School. In addition to the openly advertised internal promotion and professional development posts, the School also offers a number of external opportunities.

Following the opening of two partnership schools, North London Collegiate School, Jeju (in South Korea), and North London Collegiate School, Dubai, staff in the UK have opportunities to be involved in monitoring visits to South Korea and Dubai, and to be involved in the recruitment and training of their staff. A number of exchange opportunities are available to staff, both to Korea, and to partner schools in the USA and Australia.

The School works closely with The Prince's Teaching Institute which provides residential, subject-specialist teacher training to the maintained sector. The School pays for a number of staff from NLCS to attend the courses.

As part of the larger Senior School we benefit from being able to attend lectures and presentations from an eminent number of speakers, including John Bercow, Margaret Beckett, Brian Sewell, Tom Holland and Lord Winston.

## **Terms and Conditions**

North London Collegiate School has its own salary scale, with the role being paid according to experience and qualifications.

The School is a member of a BUPA group scheme; subscription is open to all staff. Staff may pay into the Teachers Superannuation Scheme. NLCS terms are shorter than the maintained sector.

Some staff accommodation is available on site. There is free use of the School's coach service and exclusive use of the indoor swimming pool, fitness suite and sports hall. Staff children who are selected to join the Senior School enjoy 25% fee remission.

## **Applications**

Application should be made in writing to Mrs Sarah Clark, the Headmistress, with a letter of application, completed application form and the names and addresses of two professional referees, one of whom should ideally be the Head of the applicant's present school.

**The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment as part of their duties. The successful candidate will be asked to apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service for an Enhanced Disclosure.**

The closing date for applications is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February  
Interviews to be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March