

TEACHER OF PHYSICS

SEPTEMBER 2022

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 busy 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 Physics 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.



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. The successful candidate will possess strong classroom management skills (or transferrable skills to develop in this area) and an ability to inspire boys of all ages. In making this appointment, we are looking for the

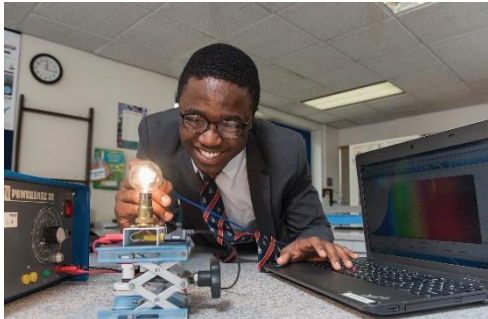
right calibre of person whose teaching will be notable for its energy and high standards. Our aim is to encourage and develop good Physicists and, with around 120 Sixth Form pupils studying either A Levels or International Baccalaureate Diplomas in Physics, there are excellent opportunities to develop teaching experience at all levels.

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's Direct programme to support those new to the profession.

The position reports to the Head of Physics.

The Science Department



Science facilities at Whitgift include 16 teaching laboratories, 2 main preparation rooms, a lecture theatre and an animal room. The Science faculty, led by Mr Paul Elliott, has twenty-nine teaching staff and consists of the Biology, Chemistry and Physics Departments as well as a Junior Science Section. The science support staff is made up of eight full-time colleagues who give technical and administrative assistance to teachers.

In the First Form (Years 6 and 7) pupils follow an in-house curriculum, designed to develop fundamental skills in Science with a focus on practical work and encouraging a curiosity and enthusiasm for the sciences.

Pupils in Year 8 are taught Separate Sciences based on an in-house Scheme of Work developed along the SOLO Taxonomy approach as we seek to develop key habits in our science pupils.

The Physics Department

The person appointed will be joining a large Physics Department, currently staffed by nine full-time and two part-time subject specialists, also supported by two full-time technicians. There is a very strong team ethos and a very healthy mix of experienced colleagues and those who are new to the profession. Teaching is carried out within the Science Department, which has 16 fully resourced Science laboratories, including six dedicated Physics laboratories. Both the School and the Department have a firm commitment to helping teachers enhance their abilities through experience and appropriate in-service training.

Curriculum

Physics is taught as a separate Science from the Second Form to the Fifth (Years 8 to 11), and staff currently work to prepare most boys for IGCSE Physics (EDEXCEL) as a separate science. A small number of boys will switch to Double Award at the beginning of Fifth Form, though all students begin their IGCSE course with the possibility that they will study, and therefore achieve, the full separate Science Physics award. In the Sixth Form, boys can choose to study A Level AQA Spec A Physics, or to study Higher or Standard Level Physics as part of the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme.

Academic Results

Academically, the Physics Department has been very successful. In 2021, at IGCSE, pupils achieved 96% 9-7 in Physics as a separate Science. In the International Baccalaureate 86% of students achieved a Level 7 or 6, whilst at A-Level Physics, 90% of students achieved A* - B.

Physics is a compulsory subject at GCSE and remains a popular subject choice in the Sixth Form, with 14 sets studying AQA Specification A A-Level or IB Physics. In the current academic year, there are a total of 87 students studying A-Level Physics alongside 41 students studying the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

		2021	2020	2019
IGCSE	9 - 7	96%	99%	94%
A Level	A* - B	90%	93%	100%
IB (Higher Level)	7 - 6	86%	100%	100%

It is hoped that the right candidate will continue with the implementation of, and see through to their natural conclusions, initiatives and processes put in place to broaden the Department's appeal among pupils and further enhance its academic achievements. It is also an opportunity for the appointed candidate to aspire to expand the departmental horizons. The right person for the post will be interested in fulfilling an important role in the Department that extends beyond the classroom and will therefore not be shy of giving appropriate energy and thought to important departmental development issues and strategies.

Co-Curricular Activities

We aim to extend our pupils' studies of Physics, and regularly enter Sixth Form students into a full range of British Physics Olympiad and Challenge events. The Department also runs both Junior and Senior Physics Society. A year-round University Physics club is also run, stretching our most able students with aspirations of studying Physics, Natural Sciences or Engineering at University with a significant number of boys moving on from Whitgift to study such courses. Curriculum enrichment trips are popular amongst our pupils and seen as a core part of our provision.



Boarding

Our superbly equipped boarding facilities are ideally placed within the spacious grounds of Hailing Park. A large proportion of boarders come from various parts of the United Kingdom, and some from 20 other countries across the world. 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 residential and non-residential along with a wide range of co-curricular activities which include outstanding sport and music programmes. Shortlisted applicants will be able to express their interest at interview.

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.

Community Engagement

The John Whitgift Foundation has a strong ethos of giving back to the local community. As part of this, we are proud to promote these values and this filters through all aspects of the School.

Whitgift pupils and staff are already active in in this area, particularly through our links with primary schools, and we are committed to increasing this involvement in the coming years. There will be exciting opportunities for staff to be involved in activities which both enhance the development of Whitgift pupils and support the needs of others in the local area. Opportunities will become available in the Whitgift Community Summer School, Primary Academic Masterclasses, Primary Project and/or other activities of this type as the programme develops.

Contact

Please feel free to contact Mr Ian Hanley, Head of Physics, on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail iph@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. For any general queries, please telephone the School Human Resources Department on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail 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.

March 2021