Teacher of Modern Languages

The Posts

We are looking to fill a full-time maternity post from September 2018 for two terms. The appointed candidate will be a dynamic and creative teacher with drive and high standards. The ability to offer French *and* Spanish to A level is an advantage. Clifton has its own pay scale, which is above the State sector scale; this is comparable with salaries in other major Independent Schools.

The Departmental Staff

The current staff is strong on enthusiasm and experience. There are at present nine full-timers, including two Mandarin teachers, one part-timer and three language assistants, one for each of French, German and Spanish. The department meets weekly to discuss teaching ideas and develop initiatives, and also meets daily for coffee in the department office.
One member of the department is an Assistant Housemistress, with the rest of us being academic Tutors in Day or Boarding Houses; we contribute to a broad range of pastoral and co-curricular activities, as indeed is expected of all staff.

The Pupils

When entering the Upper School in Year 9, most pupils study 2 modern languages. Many of our pupils come from Clifton Preparatory School (the Pre), where they start French at an early age and then study two modern languages from year 7, with German, Mandarin, Spanish and French on offer. Many continue with the 2 languages started in the Pre. For other pupils and those entering from outside, there are beginners' sets in German and Spanish from Year 9. French is not compulsory. French and Spanish is the most popular combination.
French, German, Spanish and Mandarin can be taken to A Level. Italian is available "ab initio" to GCSE and to AS over 2 years in the 6th Form. Oxbridge candidates are identified by half-way through the Lower Sixth and preparation classes offered off the timetable.

The Syllabus and Curriculum

For each language Year 9 has 3 periods of 40 minutes per week and Years 10 and 11 each have 4. Set sizes are not bigger than 22 and many are much smaller. We enter all sets in French, German and Spanish in the Lower school for the Edexcel IGCSE exam. The French course books include Tricolore Total for the IGCSE. Germanists and Hispanists use the Hodder German/ Spanish for IGCSE textbooks.

In the Sixth Form, candidates use a variety of resources to prepare for the Edexcel A level including the Hodder Edexcel A Level series.

Our IGCSE and A level results are very high. Our record with the strongest candidates is excellent, and typically one or two students are offered places to read Modern Languages at Oxford or Cambridge every year. Numbers for languages in the Sixth form have grown in the last five years.

Exchanges and Extra-Curricular Activities

The department runs several study trips and is keen to organise more:
• A German study visit is organised regularly to Berlin;
• A French study visit is going to Paris in December 2017;
• A visit to China takes place every two years;
• A Spanish study visit went to Salamanca in 2016;

We also put on a number of events for students, including the following in the last twelve months:
• A Sixth Form Language Fest, to enable students to perform sketches in front of a small audience;
• A Modern Languages poetry evening, with all Sixth form linguists taking part, in competition for the Nigel Jones cup for public speaking in foreign languages, and a German poetry evening for all years;
• Debates against local schools, in French, German and Spanish;
• A German event to celebrate the start of Fasching;
• A cheese tasting;
• A tapas night;
• A lecture from the University of Bristol on Victor Hugo;
• Modern Languages Film Club evenings.

The Facilities including ICT

The Modern Languages Department is located in a beautiful new building at 4,5 Worcester Rd. The building has a languages café which serves as a venue for films and debates. It is a very popular place amongst staff and students to meet, eat or read a foreign language newspaper over a coffee. The 11 classrooms are well-equipped with large state-of-the art smart screens and sound bars. We also have a Sony digital language laboratory. Each of the Assistants has their own office and there is a departmental office.

If you require any further information about this role, please contact the Head of Modern Languages, Owen Lewis, at olewis@cliftoncollege.com

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