



Teacher of Design and Technology



ST HELEN &
ST KATHARINE

Welcome to St Helen and St Katharine

St Helen and St Katharine is one of the leading independent girls' schools in the country – a place where students thrive, and our brilliant staff use their expertise and enthusiasm to go above and beyond.

Our students achieve significant academic success each year, much of which is due to our teachers' ambition and passion, but the students and their parents are very aware that it is the whole staff group that makes St Helen's 'tick', and all staff are valued for their contribution to the school community.

When people start working at St Helen's, they are joining a vibrant community of over 720 students and 225 members of staff. Whether as one of those expert teachers or as one of our skilled support staff, there are many opportunities to become fully immersed in life at St Helen's – from coming along to watch one of the outstanding school productions to taking part in the range of activities we have to support staff well-being and our sense of community.

We are fortunate to be able to offer a range of training and professional development opportunities to support staff growth; our staff training budget is generous and allows for both departmental initiatives and individual development. We look to get outstanding speakers to address both the whole staff and specific groups; we have been delighted to welcome Tom Sherrington, David Didau and David Weston to talk to our teaching staff in recent years and all staff have benefitted from the work we have done with Executive Coach, Simon Scott, as we look to keep life and work and wellness in balance. There is an active Joint Staff Consultative Committee and a regular staff e-zine that shares ideas for things to do in the local area.

St Helen's is an outstanding place to start your teaching career, and we provide comprehensive support for teacher induction. We encourage talented graduates interested in teaching to join us directly and have plenty of experience of guiding them to gain their qualified teacher status through the school-based PGCE from the University of Buckingham.

We are also an excellent school for newly qualified teachers to complete their 2-year Early Careers induction, guided by experienced subject mentors and our Initial Teacher Training Coordinator.

We look to connect both trainee and early career teachers with their peers in our immediate network of both independent and maintained sector schools in Abingdon.





The School

Ranked the top girls' school in Oxfordshire in the Times Parent Power 2024 and the top 4 girls' school for sport in the UK by School Sport Magazine, St Helen and St Katharine is one of the leading independent schools in the country. It is an exciting place to work, and appointing the very best staff is integral to our success.

St Helen's School was founded in 1903 and was then joined in 1938 by St Katharine's in Wantage. The School is located on a single campus-style site of beautiful Edwardian and modern buildings set in 22 acres of grounds, on the outskirts of Abingdon, some six miles from Oxford. An extensive school bus network facilitates a large student catchment area that includes Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Gloucestershire.

St Helen's is a school where success is celebrated but not revered. Our students achieve excellent academic results, and our goal is to ensure that every girl achieves success as she defines it, so that she can believe in herself, her talents and abilities, and so that she will feel prepared and equipped for life beyond school.

The School is a thriving community of girls and young women aged 9 to 18 years including a small Junior Department comprising one Year 5 and one Year 6 class. St Helen's offers students an outstanding academic education and a rich and varied life beyond the classroom including excellence in sport, the creative and performing arts and a superb range of extracurricular clubs and societies.

We enjoy collaboration with a range of local partner schools, including Radley College, Abingdon, Larkmead, John Mason and Fitzharrys, providing opportunities to enrich the developmental journeys of our students and build positive connections across genders and experiences.

In 2023, we opened the doors to our new sixth form centre, the Benedict Building. The Benedict Building is a physical articulation of the School's vision for Sixth Form – to create an environment for our students that will spark their intellectual spirit and imagination – and provides students with the space and opportunity to grow their academic and extracurricular interests in readiness for the future.

The staff

St Helen and St Katharine is a very special place to work.

Our students are at the heart of everything we do, we celebrate our powerful sense of community, and we take pride in our very high standards and the strength of our performance. We enjoy a working environment and a culture within the School which focuses on development, inclusion and the pleasure of working all together.

We are always looking at ways to develop our people – students and staff. We look to be progressive, imaginative and respectful; we combine the best of long tradition with a commitment to readying our people for the challenges of the 21st Century. We also firmly believe that a diverse workforce is a better workforce which will help us develop ideas, solve problems and ultimately grow St Helen and St Katharine. Our campus is beautiful and an inspiring place to work. The young people we work with are remarkable and the staff community is welcoming, committed and compassionate.

Every day is different at St Helen and St Katharine. It's fast-paced but never loses sight of the value of individualised conversations and the need for support. We take our commitment to the well-being of staff very seriously and we offer the resources and training to allow people to flourish professionally.

The contribution of every member of the staff team is valued at St Helen and St Katharine, and teaching and support staff work closely together, appreciative of the positive difference everyone can make in their varied roles.





The role

We are seeking to appoint a full-time, well-qualified and enthusiastic Teacher to join our thriving Design & Technology (DT) department, from September 2026. This is an exciting opportunity to work in a flourishing department, with strong numbers at GCSE and A Level.

The successful applicant will specialise in Product Design and will be able to demonstrate sound subject knowledge, high academic standards and the ability to enthuse students of all ages. The post holder will support the Head of Department and leading an engaging a relevant curriculum, that has student progress at the centre of their gaze and be confident in the use of data management and a variety of assessment strategies.

The Teacher will show a commitment to further developing a full and inclusive extracurricular programme, which currently includes a variety of opportunities for students such as the Green Power Car Project, Vex Robotics and a Furniture Craft Club. They will champion the choice of design disciplines in higher education (HE) and work with members of the Science, Computer Science and Mathematics departments in supporting HE applications for relevant engineering disciplines. The post holder will contribute towards the development of a programme of supra-curricular activities such as the Arkwright Scholarship, promoting aspiration in those looking to study design beyond school.

Alongside a passionate and professional approach to their teaching they should be able to inspire and motivate students to work independently, whilst maintaining a high level of health and safety in the workshop. Experience in teaching Product Design to A level is desirable, but not essential and applications are welcomed from experience and Early Career Teachers, who will be fully supported by the school.

In addition to subject teaching, the post holder will also have pastoral responsibilities within their allocated year group. All staff share the responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of the students, in accordance with the School's safeguarding policies.

The Department

DT is taught by specialist teachers: the Head Department, one full time teacher(the post holder) and DT specialist Technician.

Facilities

The subject is delivered in a fully equipped specialist building for Three-Dimensional Design Studies, incorporating Ceramics (part of the Art department) and DT. Ceramics and DT have their own purpose-built areas with a separate preparation room and storage space. The DT area comprises of a workshop, equipped with a full range of wood and metal working tools and machinery, as well as a laser cutter, vinyl-cutter, CNC router and a bank of 3D printers. There is a second workshop, dedicated to A level teaching, with higher level of challenge machinery such as an engineering lathe and wood lathe. Students in the Sixth Form are encouraged to make use of the facilities through undertaking specific projects and independent learning, beyond the curriculum.

Subject Details/Curriculum

In Lower School (Years 7 - 8) all students study DT for half of the year in half-form sets. Students will then rotate with Food Technology.

In Year 9, students can opt to study DT for a double period a week before they start their GCSE courses. It is currently extremely popular, with approximately half the year group making this choice.

At GCSE this popularity is maintained, with two sets in both Years 10 and 11 currently. Students take the AQA Design Technology course at GCSE and we offer after school sessions where students can access the workshop area.

Students wishing to study A level take Product Design and will follow the Pearson Edexcel specification (9DT0), completing two design and make tasks in the Michaelmas term, before undertaking their Non-Examined Assessment in the second half of Lent term.

Every year the Art and DT departments run an afternoon of creative activities to extend classroom learning for Year 9. In the past, DT activities have included metal work and jewellery workshops. There is also a summer exhibition, held in the second half of the Trinity term to showcase the art and design work of all years across the three subject areas of Art, Ceramics, and DT as well as GCSE and A level work.

Role Details

St Helen and St Katharine values the highest level of professionalism in its teachers. It is expected that all teachers will display a high level of knowledge and understanding of their subject area and communicate this enthusiastically to students. Teachers should have high expectations of their students and be able to display evidence of planning, preparation and monitoring of progress. It is the responsibility of all teachers to create a stimulating and positive learning environment and to employ a range of teaching strategies, thus enabling all students to fulfil their academic potential. They should inspire trust and confidence.





Curriculum Delivery

- Planning, preparing and teaching the classes assigned to him/her, using a range of strategies for teaching and classroom management to ensure that individual learning needs are met
- Ensuring that marking of students' work is both regular and thorough and that full records are kept
- To regularly monitor the progress of all students in their teaching groups, taking account of individual learning needs to have a positive impact on student progress
- Liaising with the Head of Learning Support on strategies to support the progress of students on the Learning Support register
- Keeping abreast of current thinking and development in the subject area(s)
- Assisting the Head of Department with the development of appropriate syllabuses, schemes of work and teaching styles
- Sharing resources and training materials with colleagues
- Contributing to departmental activities, e.g. enrichment work, clubs, societies and trips
- Taking responsibility for professional development and using the outcomes to improve teaching and learning
- Attending whole school INSET sessions

Physical Resources and Safety

- Meeting the health and safety requirements of the School
- Working with the other members of the department to ensure that all resources are well looked after and that departmental areas provide a stimulating environment for teaching

Communication

- Providing or contributing to oral and written assessments, reports and references relating to individual students
- Attending Parents' Meetings
- Attending regular departmental meetings and full staff meetings
- Attending Open Day

Pastoral and Whole School Support

- Being a form tutor if required
- Contributing to the pastoral care and personal development of students
- Carrying out a share of supervisory duties in accordance with published schedules
- Ensuring that a register of attendance in lessons and clubs is kept, taking appropriate action in cases of student absence
- Supporting the ethos of the School through maintaining the highest standards of professionalism
- Attending assembly or chapel and whole school services
- Contributing to whole school activities, e.g. clubs and expeditions



The person

Skills/abilities

- Ability to motivate and inspire students across the age and ability range
- Ability to relate well to young people
- Ability to work well on a day-to-day basis in a supportive and collaborative manner as part of a departmental team
- Ability to contribute to the development and implementation of departmental policies and goals
- Effective communication skills – oral and written
- Excellent teaching and classroom management skills
- Effective IT skills

Knowledge

- Excellent subject and curriculum knowledge
- Working knowledge of using CAD/CAM - including 2D and 3D software
- A working knowledge of metal working would be useful
- An awareness and understanding of the issues and current developments in teaching DT in schools

Qualifications and Experience

- A good honours or higher degree in a relevant discipline
- Qualified teacher status is desirable

Personal attributes

- Enthusiasm and passion for DT and the ability to convey this to students
- A willingness to take an appropriate share of departmental responsibilities and participate in trips
- High levels of personal and professional integrity
- High degree of self-confidence, dynamism and personal warmth, to develop a good rapport with students, colleagues and parents
- High expectations for student attainment, personal development and conduct
- A full commitment to involvement in an extracurricular programme which meets the needs of all students
- A reflective practitioner; ability to self-appraise and manage continuous professional self-development
- A commitment to safeguarding our students in line with the School's safeguarding policies

Salary and benefits

- Teachers are paid a salary that reflects their knowledge and experience. St Helen's offers competitive salary levels and has its own salary scale which offers scope for pay progression
- This is a permanent, full-time position to start in September 2026.
- Employees may join a staff Pension Scheme.
- Teachers are entitled to take the normal School holidays.
- The School currently operates a cycle to work scheme.
- Employees are entitled to free lunches when the kitchens are operating.
- There is free car parking on site.
- Employees may use the fully equipped gymnasium/sports facility on site.

St Helen and St Katharine is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers, the Disclosure and Barring Service and overseas Police checks, if applicable. Employment is subject to these checks



The process

These job details should be read in conjunction with our Safeguarding policies, available within the vacancies section of our website.

Please then complete an application form (available within the vacancies section of our website). The completed and signed application form, along with a brief supporting letter addressed to **Mrs Sarah Rollings, Head,** should be submitted via email (recruitment@shsk.org.uk) in the first instance and then sent to:

Human Resources Department
St Helen and St Katharine
Faringdon Road
Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 1BE

Please note that any application form submitted electronically must be completed in the existing application form format, within Adobe.

The closing date for this post is **Day 4 February 2026 at 09.00am.**
Interviews will take place week commencing **9 February 2026.**

Please note that due to the volume of applications we receive, we are unable to provide individual feedback.

We look forward to receiving your completed application.



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