



Thomas's
CLAPHAM

Lower School Learning Assistant

For further details please go to the
Thomas's London Day Schools website:
thomas-s.co.uk/join-our-team
or e-mail vstanton@thomas-s.co.uk

thomas-s.co.uk



Our website www.thomas-s.co.uk contains detailed information about Thomas's London Day Schools in general and Thomas's Clapham in particular. It will give an insight to our values, ethos, facilities, curriculum and community.

Application Details

For further details go to the Thomas's London Day Schools website:
www.thomas-s.co.uk/join-our-team
or email:
vstanton@thomas-s.co.uk

To apply for this post please complete the school's application form [Click Here](#) and forward it together with your CV to vstanton@thomas-s.co.uk

Competitive salary and conditions are offered.

Please note that referees will be contacted prior to the interview.

Closing Date:
12pm on Wednesday 11th October

Interview Date:
Tuesday 17th October

Start Date:
January 2024

Thomas's London Day Schools are committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff to share this commitment and work in accordance with our child protection policies and procedures. All posts are subject to safeguarding checks, including an enhanced DBS check.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020.

The safeguarding responsibilities of the post are as per the job description and personal specification.

For details of the checks which will be undertaken as part of our recruitment process, please see our Recruitment Policy which can be found here www.thomas-s.co.uk/policies/ under the 'Thomas's Policy' tab.

Welcome to Thomas's Clapham

Thank you for your interest in the position of **Lower School Learning Assistant** at Thomas's Clapham.

The Lower School is an area of great strength, and the children achieve highly. The quality of teaching and pastoral care is outstanding and highly regarded. The successful candidate will work alongside teachers as part of a team of Learning Assistants, working collegiately and collaboratively as part of the year group teams. They will be strongly supported to provide an inclusive, innovative and inspiring learning environment in ways which are consistently challenging and enriching, and seizing every opportunity to celebrate every child's effort and achievement.

This is a great opportunity for an enthusiastic and passionate Learning Assistant to join our community. We are looking for a person who can quickly generate vision, confidence and respect and who is capable of fostering highly positive working relationships with children, parents and colleagues.

Nathan Boller, Head

This role involves regular contact with children and falls within the category of regulated activity; therefore, the school will conduct safeguarding checks, including an enhanced DBS check and a barred list check. Should you receive any cautions or convictions whilst in our employment these must be reported immediately to your line manager. 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 and work in accordance with our child protection

policies and procedures. The post holder will have responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom he/she is responsible, or with whom he/she comes into contact and will be required to adhere to the school's policies at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post, the post holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the school, he/she must report any concerns to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or to the Head (if different).

Background and context

Thomas's London Day Schools educates over 2000 children at five schools – Thomas's Battersea, Thomas's Clapham, Thomas's Fulham, Thomas's Kensington, Thomas's Putney Vale, and in one kindergarten in Battersea. Thomas's Academy, formerly New King's Primary School, joined the Thomas's family of schools in September 2015.

Thomas's was founded as a kindergarten in a Pimlico church hall in 1971 by actress and mother Joanna Thomas. Six years later Joanna and her husband David founded a school for older children in response to the success of the kindergarten and a growth in demand for quality day school places in London. In 1977 the first Thomas's, initially known as Kensington Court Lower School, opened in Cadogan Gardens.

By offering a coeducational education with high academic aims, along with a broad curriculum taught by energetic teachers, the school went from strength to strength. It eventually expanded and multiplied becoming a group of schools which is internationally recognised as a beacon of excellence in prep school education.

Thomas's Clapham opened in 1993 on the site of the former Clapham County Girls' School on Broomwood Road between Wandsworth and Clapham Commons. By then, Thomas's Kensington had opened in 1981 and the original Thomas's had moved to larger premises and become Thomas's Battersea in 1989. Thomas's Kindergarten had opened nearby in 1992.

Thomas's Fulham opened in 2004. Joanna and David Thomas retired from the active management of the group in 1999. Thomas's is now run by their sons Ben and Tobyn.

In September 2021, Thomas's opened its first senior school, Thomas's Putney Vale, taking pupils up to the age of 16.

There are currently 655 children aged from 4 to 13 on the roll at Thomas's Clapham. Demand for places at the school is considerable with most children arriving in Reception. 13+ is the main exit point for our pupils where they head to a combination of London Day and Boarding schools.

The school was recognised by Ofsted as Outstanding in each category in February 2018. A regulatory compliance inspection was completed at Thomas's Clapham in January 2023.



Ethos

Thomas's Clapham is a community filled with energy, excitement and enjoyment. Our learning environments are expertly guided by ambitious and passionate staff who inspire children to think and learn in engaging and creative ways. Our community holds kindness and creativity at its core, and we look to embrace the joy of childhood in all that we do.

We are proud to contribute to the lives of each and every pupil, and celebrate their growth be it academic, social, physical, emotional or spiritual. Our children and their families, together with our staff, contribute to a community that values learning and wellbeing in equal measure.

Campus and strategic development

Thomas's Clapham is housed in a Grade II listed building which was built between 1904 and 1908 as a girls' grammar school. Since opening in 1993, the campus has been greatly improved and updated. The facilities include a Drama studio and fully equipped theatre space. New classrooms and an Art, Pottery and Design Centre have been added as have outdoor learning areas including a garden dedicated to the teaching of Mindfulness.

There is a Masterplan for a significant refurbishment of the school campus and the majority of the work has been completed. Every teaching area has been fully refurbished during the past nine years and substantial planning permission has been granted by the local authority for a redevelopment of the remaining works on the ground floor.

Under the leadership of Head, Nathan Boller, Thomas's Clapham has undergone a process of reflection and review, the results of which generated a new 5 year strategic vision. Within this, modifications to the existing campus plans will be integrated to ensure the learning, community, and organisational structure create a 21st century ecology.



Wellbeing at Thomas's Clapham

Thomas's Clapham has a strong and supportive wellbeing structure. Class teachers and form tutors take a close interest in their pupils' wellbeing, and at the heart of this are the positive relationships which we tirelessly foster at every level. Pupils are supported by Year Leaders who have broad responsibilities for the wellbeing of pupils in each year group.

Wellbeing is actively taught and our assembly programme is central to pupils being happy at Thomas's Clapham. We are a listening school and through teaching about choices and personal responsibility, pupils build balanced social relationships and control their behaviour by avoiding thoughts and actions that get in the way of them achieving their goals and reaching their potential.

Pupil agency and voice is a crucial part of how we reflect on and improve our school. Pupils of all ages form our many representative committees and volunteer groups. It is their action and energy that propels our school forward.

Thomas's Clapham believes that all members of the community should Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Calm, and Be Ready. A shared understanding of these four rules, and a focus on school values, underpin our positive behaviour management approach.

Thomas's London Day Schools fully recognise their responsibilities for Safeguarding and Child Protection.

Learning at Thomas's Clapham

Thomas's Clapham is committed to developing a culture of thinking within every learning environment. This is grounded in the belief that learning is a consequence of thinking, and that learning is everywhere. We aim to have a community full of pupils who assume an active role in their learning, and who are adaptable thinkers; thinkers who engage with others, with ideas, and importantly, with action. Much of this comes from our school embedding an instructional framework that allows for critical, creative and reflective thinking.

Thomas's Clapham respects the importance of teaching for understanding, especially through an enquiry mindset where knowledge and information is connected to the lives of our children. Thinking and learning at Thomas's Clapham is about encouraging children to learn about the world to command and control it, not simply to fit in it. Our ambition is that every learning opportunity allows pupils to refine their thinking through exploration, investigation and discussion.

The National Curriculum is the starting point, but in each subject work is planned to stimulate and challenge. Change is eagerly embraced by colleagues and pupils who share a passion for learning and finding new and better ways of doing things. Creativity, thinking skills and instilling a thirst for independent learning are at the heart of approach. Continuous professional development is a strongly established culture within the school.

Co-curricular

Academic standards and expectations are exceptional as there is a strong emphasis on the breadth of learning and experiences that our vibrant co-curricular programme offers. The range of opportunities is extraordinary encompassing sport, art, drama, trips, tours, a wide array of clubs and music.

The co-curricular programme at Thomas's Clapham has been developed both in the classroom and during our clubs provision.

The Role

Lower School - structure and organisation

Mrs Hannah Tongue is the Head of Lower School and is supported by a Deputy (Early Years Leader) and a Year 1 and a Year 2 Coordinator. Together they oversee the welfare and academic experience of the children in the Lower School. There are four classes within each year group in the Lower School and staff support each other with planning, organisation and sharing areas of expertise. The children are in classes of no more than 21 in the Lower School, and stay with their form class for most lessons. The form teacher is responsible for teaching Mathematics, English, Understanding the World (Science, History and Geography) and PSHE as well as overseeing the pastoral care of their form. The class teachers are supported by a capable team of Learning Assistants.

Accountable

To the Head of Lower School

Responsible for

For supporting all aspects of learning in the Lower School

Key areas of responsibility

- To fulfil all the usual duties and responsibilities of a Learning Assistant.
- To promote and support high quality teaching and learning.
- To promote high expectations for pupil behaviour, establishing and maintaining a good standard of discipline within a positive and optimistic environment where well-focused teaching and positive, productive relationships are the norm.
- To help ensure that the classroom is an invigorating environment for effective learning, embracing pupils' work on paper, display and in the general atmosphere created in the classroom.
- To assist the children's learning in all areas of the curriculum.
- To develop open, easy and professional relationships with colleagues.
- In support of the form teacher, to be accessible and amenable to regular parental contact, and develop open, easy and professional relationships with parents.
- To maintain and manage the physical resources in the learning areas.

- To undertake supervisory duties, including school lunch, attend assemblies, attend staff meetings and INSETs and to cover for absent colleagues.
- To run a weekly club.
- To help with the annual year group production.
- To attend staff meetings, School INSET, and attend professional courses to enhance teaching effectiveness and qualifications.
- To support and contribute strongly to the corporate life of the school (e.g. contributing material to Twitter, newsletters, the school magazine, the web site, attending events etc).
- To fully implement school policies and practices.
- To comply with all Health and Safety requirements.
- To establish a safe environment that supports learning and where pupils feel secure and confident.
- To contribute to the rich and varied extra-curricular programme.
- To play a full part in the life of the school, including attendance at events as required by the Head and Head of Lower School (eg parent teacher meetings, the Carol Service etc).
- To be a reflective practitioner and regularly share good practice linked to the School's Personal Professional Development.
- To ensure the best possible practice.

Qualifications and experience required

The successful candidate for this post will have at least a Level 3 qualification relevant to the post, either experienced in, or trained to assist with children's learning.

In addition to candidate's ability to perform the duties of the post, the interview will also explore the issues relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children including;

- Motivation to work with children and young people
- The ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people
- Emotional resilience in working with challenging behaviours
- Attitudes to the use of authority and maintaining discipline

Our Values



Kindness

Kindness

We expect pupils at Thomas's to be kind; to be good friends to those around them, always on the lookout for and ready to support those in need of a word of encouragement or a listening ear.

Courtesy

We expect our pupils to be unfailingly courteous and polite; to have regard for the needs of others; to be responsible for the impact of their behaviour on those around them; to stand back, holding the door open, to allow adults through; to be particularly aware of the very young and the very old; not to 'hog the pavement' on school trips; to say "please" and "thank you" without prompting.

Honesty

We expect our pupils to be honest, to act with integrity at all times and to understand and uphold the rule of law.

Respect

We encourage all members of the community to respect themselves, each other, their learning environment and the wider community. We expect our pupils not just to tolerate but to celebrate difference, to respect the right of others to hold differing beliefs



Courtesy



Honesty



Respect



Perseverance

or views and to develop an awareness of individual liberty. As our pupils become old enough to understand the characteristics protected by law, we look to them to challenge discrimination in all its forms and to foster healthy, positive relationships grounded in mutual respect.

Perseverance

We would like our pupils to appreciate the importance of, and to show, perseverance; to acquire a 'growth mindset' by understanding that intelligence can be developed; to embrace challenges; to persist in the face of setbacks; to see effort as the path to mastery; to learn from criticism; to find lessons and inspiration in the success of others and, as a result, to reach ever-higher levels of achievement and a greater sense of free will.

Independence

We would like our pupils to become independent learners; to work hard; to be responsible, organised and to manage their belongings effectively. In the classroom, we would like them not only to make valid contributions, but also to be good listeners, who respect and encourage the efforts of their peers.



Independence

We hope that, as a result of their lessons at school, our pupils will begin to take responsibility for their personal learning, reading around subjects that interest them, carrying out their own research and making full use of the many excellent resources available to them.

As a result, we would like our pupils to gain a growing sense of enquiry and wonder about the world around them; about the vast body of knowledge and skills that has brought mankind to where we are today – and about how much there is still to learn.

Confidence

We expect our pupils to acquire self-knowledge by encountering both success and failure in an environment of support and encouragement, both at school and at home. Consequently, they should be 'comfortable in their own skin', full of self-confidence, yet always free of arrogance, and able to make sound judgements. We would like our pupils to become their best selves, not a second-hand version of someone else.

Leadership

We aim to equip our pupils to lead by example and to recognise service as a powerful form of leadership; to be prepared to stand out from the crowd;



Confidence



Leadership

to be the first to respond to someone in need; to stand up for what they believe to be right; to challenge what they know to be wrong; to risk making an unpopular decision, if they believe it to be for the greater good; to earn the trust and respect of others. We hope that our pupils will experience at an early age the opportunities and challenges of leadership.

Humility

Notwithstanding their confidence, our pupils are expected to retain a sense of humility; to be without arrogance; to be conscious of the advantages they enjoy and to show gratitude for them by putting them to best use by helping others. We hope that all our pupils will acquire a sense of the eternal and that this will inform their perspective of their place in the world.

Givers, not Takers

Above all, we would like our pupils to be givers, not takers; to show generosity of spirit; to use their skills and talents first for the benefit of others. We hope that our students will leave their school with a strong sense of social responsibility, set on a path to become net contributors to society and to flourish as successful, conscientious and caring citizens of the world.



Humility



**Givers,
Not Takers**



**Be Kind
Be Thomas's**