



Job Information Pack

Teacher of Biology

Contents

- (1) Introduction to QES
- (2) Job Details
- (3) Department Details
- (4) Next Steps

Snapshots of QES



Photos

Clockwise from top left: Students in science lesson, performance of Jesus Christ Superstar, boys' 100m on QES Sports Day and staff fancy dress on World Book Day



Introduction to QES

General School Details



Queen Elizabeth School, Kirkby Lonsdale, is an 11-18, co-ed, non-denominational, all-ability school which has 1,403 pupils, of whom 319 are in the Sixth Form. It serves a large, prosperous and beautiful area of South Lakeland, North Yorkshire and North Lancashire with pupils drawn from as far away as Sedbergh, Clapham, Lancaster, Silverdale and Kendal. Although a rural school, QES is only 6 miles from the M6 and twenty minutes from a main West Coast train station which promotes easy access and helps explain the outward-looking vibrancy of Kirkby Lonsdale.

The School has a fine tradition of “scholarship and care” dating back over 400 years, with its present popularity founded upon high quality teaching and learning, a broad and imaginative curriculum geared to individuals, excellent results, impressive standards of care and a reputation for a friendly, relaxed yet purposeful atmosphere. Most significantly, QES is founded on ten core values which underpin and inform the life and work of the School and which promote our sense of community. We are committed to a broad education in the deepest sense and with a strong emphasis on personal development. That said, we expect around 80% of our students to achieve 5 or more grades A*-C including English/Maths and we would expect 100% to achieve 5 A*-G. At A level the average points score and percentage of pupils achieving A & B grades is impressively high although we aim to cater for students across the ability spectrum. Our value-added measures are strong at every level.

We have been considered an ‘outstanding’ school by Ofsted for many years with the top rating in all categories; our enduring motivation, though, is to make limitless progress beyond that benchmark. Formerly we had specialisms in the Performing Arts, Languages and as a Training



School. Latterly we became one of the first Teaching Schools. It is fair to say that QES is strong in all areas and, as well as being a top school academically, the astonishing music, dance and drama produced is of national standard and currently we are the top-rated state school nationally in junior and senior girls' hockey. The school became an Academy in December 2010 and continues to be part of the well-established and highly regarded South Lakes Federation.

The School has a mix of established staff and many more recently arrived. Turnover is exceptionally low; levels of expertise, as well as morale, are high. Teachers enjoy very positive relationships with pupils and are committed to providing not only excellent teaching but also a full range of extra-curricular activities. Our Support staff are excellent – talented and highly committed! QES enjoys a positive relationship with the local community and the PTA is flourishing. The Governors of this new Academy are a highly professional body, owning school land and property and employing staff directly. Over the years QES has developed a self-managing, confident and independent culture while preserving strong links with neighbouring schools and the LA. Relationships at QES are excellent; the school has a strong community spirit and a common sense of purpose. Many visitors feel the School has a very special atmosphere.

The School site, on the edge of the picturesque market town of Kirkby Lonsdale, is particularly attractive and the characterful buildings show evidence of additional phases from the 1840s to the present day. Since 1996 the School has completed a number of successive high-quality building projects and the site is striking, attractive, colourful, bright and civilised. Landscaping projects have given form, shape and coherence to the site adding avenues, courtyards, gardens and an amphitheatre. It's a lovely place to learn.

All in all, the School is very favoured. Someone coming to work here, as well as enjoying the advantages of the natural environment, can expect the opportunity to encounter pleasant, amenable, motivated students and friendly supportive colleagues and will be given every opportunity to pursue his/her professional development while being encouraged to perform to the highest standards.



Job Details

Teacher of Biology



Post	Teacher of Biology
Hours	Full Time
Pay Scale	Main Scale

Thank you for requesting details of the above post. I hope the following details will give you an impression of an exciting opportunity to play a part in the development of one of the country's top 'high-performing' Teaching Schools. To that end, you will find details about the School, the job and Science at QES. I would strongly urge you to get more of a 'feel' for the ethos and life of the school by visiting our website www.queenelizabeth.cumbria.sch.uk . There you will find out about the QES Values and you'll find evidence of our strong commitment to effective teaching and learning (have a look at the 'Learner Attribute' slides and the Teaching and Learning Policy). You will also find our last 'outstanding' Ofsted report (go to 'QES Info' and select 'Ofsted'). Admittedly it's some years ago now but, believe me, QES is even better these days! I appreciate that there is much in addition that you would want to know and I can assure



you that at the interview stage we will share with you as much as is feasible. If there is anything specific you wish to know at this stage please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The Post

This exciting post is a fantastic opportunity for someone to join a strong team at a key stage of change and development. It would be an excellent opportunity for an NQT with a top class degree from a highly regarded University. You will be able to learn from experienced practitioners how to become an outstanding Biology teacher. It would also potentially suit someone, perhaps with a little more experience, who is keen to develop the skills necessary to lead their own department. We certainly envisage the new teacher to be able and willing to teach right across the age and ability range including to 'A' Level.

The Person

It's possible that coming to teach at QES may sound a little daunting but if you're the modest type don't be put off! It's true that we intend to appoint staff only of the highest ability or with the greatest promise and working at QES is demanding but the rewards are commensurate in a school with a strong, highly motivated staff, very good facilities, a lovely environment and pleasant, friendly and highly motivated pupils.

We expect to appoint a Teacher of Biology who has:

- A keen intellect and an excellent academic background with a very good degree
- A passion for Biology and Science and experience or real promise as a teacher
- Compelling personal qualities, an ability to form positive relationships with people and the ability to enthuse and inspire both pupils and staff
- Impeccable administrative abilities and a highly efficient demeanour
- An ability to communicate effectively
- The ability to work hard under pressure
- A sense of humour and proportion
- Excellent IT skills
- A commitment to enhancing the community or extra-curricular life of the school
- A commitment to professional development

These lists may seem a bit overwhelming but should give you some idea of the importance with which we regard Science at QES. Please do understand that QES has a supportive ethos and a commitment to structured professional development. The person appointed can expect much help, guidance and support from colleagues, school leaders including Lisa Longley, Assistant



Headteacher; Vicky Pimblett, Head of Science; Anna Waters, Head of Biology and the rest of the current Science team.

If there are any issues regarding salary levels, then they can be discussed at interview.

Your Application

If you feel you wish to apply, please complete all sections of the application form and return to me **no later than Tuesday 26th January** (by 10am) together with a letter which must include the following in no more than 2 sides A4:

- an outline of your relevant experience
- a discussion of your personal and professional qualities which suit you for this post
- a statement as to why this particular job appeals to you
- a mention of any constraints or circumstances which you want to make us aware of at this stage

We are intending to interview before February half term. If you haven't heard by the end of February, I'm afraid in this instance you will not have been successful. Costs preclude us informing applicants personally.

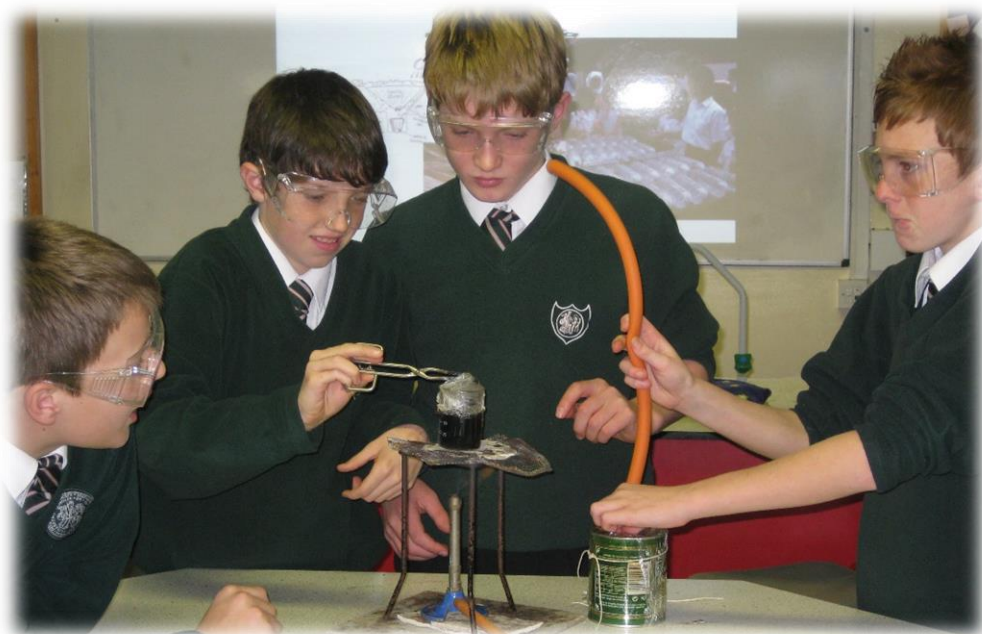
I do hope you will take the time to apply. QES is a marvellous school in which to work and this is a very exciting opportunity. If you require further information or wish to discuss any issues, please do feel free to give me a ring. In the meantime, good luck with your application. I look forward to possibly meeting you in the near future.

Chris Clarke
January 2016



Department Details

Science



Science is a large and successful department at QES. The department is a mix of experienced long-serving staff and also some new staff still at the beginning of their teaching careers. This blend makes a team that have a wealth of expertise and a range of skills and talents.

At present the department has 10 full-time teachers and 3 part-time teachers. The department is supported by 4 lab technicians, covering 3 full-time positions.

Science is taught in 10 full sized labs supported by 3 prep rooms and 1 computer cluster. All of the labs are superb environments in which to teach and learn science.

Year 7

The pupils are taught in mixed ability forms. They follow module based in-house schemes of work, which are designed to develop skills, understanding and enthusiasm for science.



Year 8

The year group is split into two populations and each population is divided into ability sets based on their previous year's work and examination performances. The three elements of Science are taught as separate subjects by specialist teachers to complete a condensed Key Stage 3 Curriculum.

Year 9

Pupils continue to be taught in ability based sets in populations and now begin work on their GCSE Science Qualifications. The three sciences continue to be taught as separate subjects by subject specialists. This year group will be working towards the new AQA specifications next year and will be choosing either separate or combined sciences as part of their option process.

Years 10 & 11

The majority of pupils are following AQA Separate Sciences in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Approximately a quarter of pupils follow AQA Core & Additional Science. Pupils are set into 9 groups based on course and ability. Each element of Science is taught as a separate subject and by specialist teachers. We also offer BTEC Level 2 First Award in Engineering for some of our gifted and talented scientist and maths students.

Sixth Form

Successful courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics are run at Advanced Level for the school's large and increasing Sixth Form. There are currently 2 teaching groups in both Year 12 and Year 13 for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The department prides itself on its hardworking, positive ethos, dedicated to mutual support and encouragement. We are sure that any member of staff entering this department will find a warm, welcoming atmosphere and an ethos conducive to happy and stimulating work.

Lisa Longley, Assistant Headteacher, 2016



Next Steps How to Apply



We very much hope you will apply for this post.

You can find our Application Form together with Guidance Notes here:

- On the TES job page – see the links at the bottom of the page
- Or on the QES website – [click here for our Jobs page](#).

We would also encourage all potential applicants to browse our school website to get a fuller flavour of life at this very special place – [click here for our website homepage](#)

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the QES Office on 015242 71275.