

# Temporary Teacher of Spanish (2 terms) – full or part-time Information for Candidates

## The School

Oakham is one of the UK's most forward thinking and innovative co-educational boarding and day schools. The school has 1060 pupils aged 10-18, half of them boarders, half day pupils. With equal numbers of boys and girls since 1989, the School offers a truly co-educational environment.

Whilst attracting pupils from all over the country and abroad, the School enjoys a close relationship with the town and the surrounding area. Three years ago Oakham School became one of the sponsors of an academic Sixth Form Academy, Harington School.

Oakham's strength lies in providing a spectacularly wide range of opportunities and activities which sit alongside an invigorating and challenging academic curriculum. In the Upper School, students choose between A-levels, Pre-U and BTEC qualifications, or the IB Diploma.

In recent years, the school has made it a priority to develop independent learning through a series of learning habits, which are increasingly embedded across the curriculum, both inside and outside the classroom. The 'Oakham learning journey' begins in the Lower School (situated on the Jerwoods Site), where boys and girls are admitted through the School's own entrance exam at 11 (there is also a small entry at 10). Pupils also enter the school at 13+ through the Common Entrance (CE) examination and we have a further major entry point at 16+.

Over many years, the school has not only been incredibly successful academically, but it is also recognised nationally for its outstanding achievements in sport, music, drama and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The School is at an incredibly exciting point in its history and has a very ambitious development plan for the next five years, including a new facility for the Performing Arts. Last September, the School opened a new classroom block for Humanities. This year, the School opened a new state-of-the-art Faculty of Social Sciences and has just commenced major redevelopment of the Sports Centre. Oakham School does not stand still.

## The Department

The Languages Department, one of the largest in the independent sector, currently comprises of twenty four full-time and three part-time teachers, together with three language assistants in Spanish, three for French and one for German and Italian. Approximately half our students succeed to IGCSE in two languages, some in three. Our Upper School numbers are extremely healthy (currently we have 45 students in Form 6 and 35 in Form 7 for Spanish) and many of our Upper School students obtain the top grades and places at top universities. We teach the International Baccalaureate at three different levels in the Spanish Department, Higher, Standard and Ab Initio and have continued to achieve excellent results each year. At IGCSE, the pass-rate is 100%, and last year, 88% of students gained A\*/A. A high proportion of our students achieve A to B grades at A Level or 7 to 5 in the IB Diploma. Many of our students pursue their language study at university and we provide teaching for those interested in Oxbridge applications which has been particularly well received by pupils in recent years.

Housed in a building with a wide range of technical and technological support systems, the Languages Department is dynamic and innovative, making extensive use of Information Technology (we have our own dedicated 24 position ICT facility), providing numerous trips and exchanges abroad, running Language Societies, even producing short films in the foreign language. Staff are strongly encouraged to experiment and to share good practice.

We are looking to add a Spanish specialist, able to teach up to Year 13, to our team of linguists. The ability to teach a second foreign language would be helpful but is not essential.

## STRUCTURE OF LANGUAGE TEACHING

Spanish is one of two modern foreign languages available as an option to all Second Form (Year 8) students. Teaching is based on the new 'Viva' course in the Junior and Middle School and with several course books tailored to different qualifications in the Upper School. Students take the Cambridge examination at IGCSE, AQA at AS and A2 level or the International Baccalaureate Diploma examinations.

### Structure

Teaching begins in the Lower School (Year 8), where students choose between Spanish and German after half a term's exposure to each: 3 sets consistently choose Spanish. In Form 3 (Year 9) new entrants can begin or continue with Spanish in 3 fifty-minute periods per week, an allocation that continues for the next two years up to IGCSE. Oakham's Middle School Curriculum places the study of one MFL in its core, with second languages in a series of option blocks. Such a system removes the compulsion to take French through to IGCSE – Spanish can be taken alongside or instead of French after Form 3.

In the Upper School we currently have two sets for AS, three for A2, with 6 periods per week. For the IB there are two sets of Ab Initio, two sets of Standard level and two sets of Higher level in the 6<sup>th</sup> form and one set of Ab Initio, one set of Standard level and two sets of Higher level in the 7<sup>th</sup> form. Students taking the International Baccalaureate have 5 periods of Spanish per week at Higher Level, 3 periods per week at Standard and Ab Initio Level.

### Results 2016

IGCSE	Entries	55	Passes	55	Grades	A*/A	(88%)
A2	Entries	18	Passes	18	Grades	A*-B	(67%)
IB Higher	Entries	9	Passes	9	Grades	7/6/5	(100%)
IB Standard	Entries	2	Passes	2	Grade	6	(100%)

IB Ab Initio    Entries 3    Passes    3    Grades    7/6/5 (100%)

### Enrichment

Opportunities for pupils to improve their communicative skills abound. Modern Languages is housed in the Ashburton Building, and consists of seventeen classrooms, each with a networked computer, many with interactive whiteboards, plus a Modern Languages computer lab and two Sanako language laboratories. All pupils in the Fifth Form (Year 11) are supported in their spoken Spanish by a native-speaking assistant and all AS / A2 / IB level students have one lesson per week with the assistant, making a large difference to their level of fluency.

Over the last three years the Spanish Department has particularly thrived, take up for Upper School has increased considerably and Spanish is regarded a very popular subject. The department currently offers an Upper School immersion week each year: last autumn it went to Salamanca and past destinations have included Barcelona, Madrid, Granada, Valencia and Mallorca, this October the students will be visiting Alicante. We also run a very popular weekend trip to Madrid in June. Other enrichment activities include a visit from a Spanish Theatre Group, participation in regional language competitions and termly pizza and film nights. As part of the school activities programme, the Spanish Department have a weekly film club.

### **Public Examination Results**

Academic performance across the school is excellent. In the IB Diploma in 2017, students achieved a mean score of 36.1 points, with over 90% of all Higher Level grades being 7, 6 or 5, and over a third scoring 38 or more points. At A-level, 12% of all examinations were graded A\*, and 42% graded either A\* to A. Overall, combining across all qualifications, results for the Upper School equate to around 47% A-level grades A\* or A or equivalent.

At GCSE level, typically over 60% of all examinations are awarded A\* or A; in 2017, over a fifth achieved straight A\*s and As, with over a quarter achieving five A\*s or better.

### **Wider Curriculum**

Oakham's total curriculum is particularly rich. The school has a strong reputation in the creative and performing arts. The Music Department has nearly 600 music lessons per week for pupils learning an instrument and there is a wide variety of orchestras, ensembles and groups, and over 270 children sing in the school choirs. At any one time there are some 45 music scholars in the school. Theatrical productions are frequent in the school's three venues for drama, including the professionally equipped Queen Elizabeth Theatre which is also used by the town and touring professional companies. The Richard Bull Centre houses a diversity of artistic enterprises from design technology to sculpture, textiles to jewellery. Scholarships are available in Art, Drama and Design & Technology. A whole range of societies and activities flourish, from 'dissection club' to chess and from the CCF to conservation.

Sport is outstanding and there is a considerable breadth of sport available at Oakham. (the school was the 'Daily Telegraph/Aviva Senior Sports School of the Year in 2009/10) The main sports are rugby, hockey and cricket for boys and hockey, netball and tennis for girls. In addition to this, the school has a strong reputation in sailing, rifle shooting, golf and swimming. In most years there are over fifty boys and girls who represent their county or country in a variety of sports.

Pupils are encouraged to be part of the wider life of the community and to see life beyond the East Midlands. This happens in a number of ways, through community service, through trips abroad, but most effectively through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Around 250 pupils participate in D of E activities every year and the school has a strong track record of success having achieved well over 5000 awards since first offering the scheme in 1960.

The richness and range of this activity is achieved within a full boarding environment operating seven days a week, with the term punctuated by weekend Leave Outs and Exeats (half term holidays). Term time can be intense, but rewarding: holidays are long. Members of staff are expected to involve themselves fully in the life of the school, helping with games and other activities outside the classroom. Special skills are welcomed but what matters most is a willingness to give time and energy generously.

The pastoral side of the school is well developed. All our pupils are members of one of the 16 houses, each with its own Housemaster or Housemistress, and every pupil has his or her own tutor. Tutors are responsible for a group of about a dozen pupils. All members of staff (including the Senior Leadership Team) have a specific pastoral role at Oakham.

Oakham is a Church of England foundation with an Anglican chaplain and a chapel which is in use every day. The school warmly welcomes those of other denominations. No-one is excluded from appointment on religious grounds but anyone intolerant of Christianity is unlikely to feel comfortable in the Oakham community.

### **Timetable**

The school runs seven days a week during term time, with a total curriculum of pupil activity both within the formal timetable and beyond it. A full-time teacher is expected to teach twenty periods of 50 minutes per week, as well as fulfilling the tutorial and activity commitments.

### **Newly Qualified Teachers**

The school is fully accredited to participate in the ISTip NQT Induction Programme in order to provide qualified teacher status (QTS) at the conclusion of a newly qualified teacher's first year at Oakham.

### **Applicants without formal teaching qualifications or experience**

Applicants without formal teaching qualifications or experience will be considered for this position. Oakham School has a long record of training and developing teachers and many highly successful teachers started with no formal teaching qualifications. For applicants without a teaching qualification we are looking for: a high level of subject knowledge, enthusiasm, good communication skills, patience, an empathy with young people and a desire to get involved in the extra-curricular life of the school.

### **Salary and Professional Development**

Oakham operates its own competitive salary structure, and the school is keen to recruit and retain high quality staff. There is a generous professional development budget, and staff are encouraged to undertake research and training that will both develop them and enhance the school's educational provision.

## **Inspection Reports**

Oakham School has recently undergone a very successful ISI Inspection (September 2013). The inspection reports can be viewed [here](#).

## **Application and Interviews**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to spend a day at the school and to meet the Headmaster, Deputy Head (Academic) and Head of Department, as well as members of the department and other colleagues from the school. Candidates will be asked to teach a lesson as part of the selection process and further details will be forthcoming should you be shortlisted.

Candidates who wish to apply for this post should send their completed application form, covering letter stating where they saw the advertisement and CV giving details of two referees, to:

Mr Nigel Lashbrook, Headmaster  
Oakham School  
Chapel Close  
Oakham  
Rutland, LE15 6DT

or via email to Gill Flint, School Administrator, [gaf@oakham.rutland.sch.uk](mailto:gaf@oakham.rutland.sch.uk).

Initial enquiries should be directed to 01572 758506.

**The closing date for applications is Wednesday 27 September (9am). Interviews are planned for Thursday 5 October.**

Under current legislation, we are required to advise applicants that this appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure. Oakham School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service. Details of any criminal record (spent or unspent, due to exemption from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974) must be disclosed at interview. Only relevant convictions and other information will be taken into account so disclosure need not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position at Oakham School. A copy of the Recruitment of Ex-offenders Policy is enclosed. For further details, please visit the Disclosure & Barring website.