



## BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

### Information for candidates applying for the role of 0.6 Teacher of History

Required for September 2018

#### THE SCHOOL

Birkenhead School, founded in 1860, is an HMC independent day school providing education for boys and girls drawn from the whole of the Wirral and as far afield as Chester and North Wales. There are currently some 49 children in the Nursery & Pre-Prep (ages 3 months to 3), 346 pupils in the Prep (ages 3-11) and 405 pupils in Years 7 to 13. When the local GDST school announced that it was to become an Academy, the Governors decided to make Birkenhead School fully co-educational from September 2008, offering the choice of an independent education to all local children. Across the School approximately 38% of pupils are now girls. The School attracts pupils in competition with several well-established state grammar schools on the Wirral.

Situated in the leafy suburb of Oxton, the School enjoys excellent facilities. The main campus has a 'village green' atmosphere, with classrooms and laboratories looking out over the cricket square. Recent capital developments have included a new games pavilion, six new classrooms for Prep, a major refurbishment of both the Sixth Form Centre and the School Hall's performance space and a new artificial sports pitch. There are ongoing and substantial investments in ICT facilities. In addition to the main campus, the School owns 17 acres of playing fields on two sites nearby – the primary one being McAllester Field on Bidston Road.

The School is in a strong position financially, with no debt. We are fortunate to have financial support from our Foundation Trust, and we are well supported by the Old Birkenian Society and by the Parents' Association.

#### SCHOOL ORGANISATION

The School comprises Nursery, Prep and Seniors and integrates their objectives and activities within a whole school concept. The Headmaster chairs the School's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) comprising the Head of Prep, Deputies and the Bursar. This group normally attends the Board meetings.

Birkenhead School prides itself on being a family school and this has been greatly strengthened by the opening of the Nursery in 2006 and the decision to become fully co-educational in 2008. It is very attractive to parents to have all their children in one school and it is a great advantage for the school to be able to establish strong, long-lasting relationships with families. The move to coeducation reinforced this and at present, 195 families have more than one child in the School and 28 have three or four children.

#### SENIORS

405 PUPILS  
AGED 11-18  
272 BOYS / 133 GIRLS

#### PREP

346 PUPILS  
AGED 3-11  
191 BOYS / 155 GIRLS

#### NURSERY

49 PUPILS  
AGED 3 MONTHS – 3 YEARS  
18 BOYS / 31 GIRLS



## BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

### THE DEPARTMENT

The History Department currently consists of two members of staff, one of whom is an Assistant Head and Head of History.

At Key Stage Three, the department adopts a roughly chronological approach with the main emphasis being on English and British history although international aspects are also studied. Some of the main topics include the Norman Conquest, Life in the Middle Ages, the Tudors and Stuarts, the Industrial Revolution, the slave trade and slavery and the origins of the First World War. The department places great emphasis on independent learning and has sought to develop teaching styles and methods that allow for individual and group ownership of the work.

History is studied by all students in Years 7-9 and has a strong take-up at IGCSE Level. The department follows the CAIE specification, a recent development, and results have been truly impressive over a period of time, with 67% of grades at A\*-A from 2015 to 2017. The students begin the syllabus in Year 9, and then continue in Year 10 by studying the First World War, international relations between the wars and by Year 11 they study aspects of the Cold War.

History at A Level follows the OCR specification. The department currently offers courses in Russian, German and British history. The department prides itself on challenging and extending all students, with many students going on to study at top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Lower Sixth formers are provided with the opportunity to enter the Vellacott History Prize Competition run by Peterhouse College, Cambridge. Results at A Level have been truly outstanding with 96% of grades at A\*-B since 2010. The ability to teach Early Modern European History at Sixth Form would be an advantage.

The department is active in using ICT in learning and each classroom is stocked with Smartboards and projectors to support this.

Academic extension and enrichment is of great focus within the department, with relevant and inspiring visits, lectures and workshops to further develop student learning.

We aim to develop all of the following in our teaching:

- The understanding of our common heritage and of the present-day world through a study of events, developments and ideas that have gone before.
- The ability to understand factors that influenced the behaviour of people from different times and places.
- The ability to evaluate evidence of different kinds, and to use it to structure arguments and to reach balanced conclusions.
- The awareness of the existence of different types of historical sources and opinions, of the controversies they generate and of the importance of reaching appropriate judgements about their relative value.
- The love of History, the awareness of its existence outside the classroom, of the opportunity it provides for leisure and of its value in the wider world.



## BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

### THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We are looking for an enthusiastic and dynamic candidate with relevant experience to teach within our History Department. The successful candidate will balance a determined work ethic and strong academic rigour, with good humour and positivity. The role would suit someone with an excellent degree in History or related subject and experience of teaching. The role will report directly to the Head of History. Although the role is at 0.6, there will be potential to extend this in future years.

#### **Responsibilities/Accountabilities**

- Teaching, marking, assessment and grading within the department, always setting the highest standards of personal organisation and administration.

#### **Responsibilities in relation to the pupils and to what is taught**

- Contribute to a department academic extension programme to stretch, challenge and inspire students. Including active membership of relevant professional bodies.
- Keeping abreast of developments in the subject, maintaining contacts with other schools, exam boards and professional associations.
- Contributing and developing, after discussion with department, appropriate syllabuses and schemes of work at all levels.
- Ensuring pupils are properly prepared and entered for exams.
- Giving appropriate guidance to students who wish to study the subject at further levels.
- Contributing to the organisation of any field work and other co-curricular activities in relation to the department.
- Maintaining the image of the subject as an interesting and valuable one. Keeping learning environments stimulating and interesting.

#### **Responsibilities in relation to the School:**

- Carrying out School policy in the context of the department.
- Supporting the use of ICT within the department.
- Presenting the department at Open Days/Evenings and in prospectuses etc. as the need arises.
- Ensuring that the facilities, including equipment and teaching areas, are maintained in an appropriate condition.
- Contributing to the co-curricular life of the school.

#### **Additional Work Elements:**

- Liaising with students over History and other related subjects at Universities.
- Liaise with University departments and specialists within their field.
- Liaise with Prep staff to organise and oversee enrichment activities.
- To demonstrate a commitment to improving and developing the organisation's processes and facilities.
- To carry out such duties that may be reasonably required by your line manager.

This job description is not an exhaustive list of all responsibilities or duties but reflects the major core of the role.



## BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

### THE PERSON

#### **The ideal candidate will**

- Have a good degree in History or related subject.
- QTS/PGCE.
- Have prior teaching experience at Key Stages 3, 4, 5.
- Be an excellent classroom practitioner.
- Be enthusiastic, confident and diligent.
- Develop and maintain good relationships with students and colleagues.
- Have a sound understanding and awareness of Safeguarding procedures.
- Have experience of teaching high ability students to Oxbridge entrance level.
- Be practical.
- Be IT literate to support teaching and learning.
- Seek creative solutions.
- Inspire staff and students through action.

### REMUNERATION & BENEFITS

#### Salary

The salary will be competitive, depending on experience and expertise.

#### Hours

This is a permanent 0.6 position. The post holder will be required to contribute to co-curricular opportunities and work as necessary to carry out the duties of the role. All staff are expected to attend all training days.

#### Holiday

You will be entitled to school holidays and Bank Holidays.

#### Pension

The School operates an auto-enrolment pension scheme.

#### Other Benefits

- Lunch is provided in the Dining Hall during term-time.
- Children of staff enjoy a discount on School fees.
- Childcare voucher scheme



## BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

### APPLICATION

A letter of application indicating skills and experience, together with a completed application form, including the names and addresses of at least two referees, should be sent for the attention of the Headmaster via: [headmaster@birkenheadschoo.co.uk](mailto:headmaster@birkenheadschoo.co.uk)

Applications may also be sent by post to: **The Headmaster, Birkenhead School, 58 Beresford Road, Oxtan, Wirral, CH43 2JD**

Application forms can be downloaded from the School's website: [www.birkenheadschoo.co.uk](http://www.birkenheadschoo.co.uk)

Candidates are welcome to contact the Deputy Head (Academic), Mr Tom Whitworth, ([tjw@birkenheadschoo.co.uk](mailto:tjw@birkenheadschoo.co.uk)) with any questions relating to the role.

As part of our responsibility to safeguard children, the role is subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check which will be requested prior to appointment.

**Closing date for applications: 4pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018**

Successful candidates will be invited to interview the following week.