



Teacher of Physics

Start Date: September 2021
Teaching Department: Physics
Reporting to: Head of Physics

Overview of Epsom College

Epsom College is on an exciting trajectory with academic performance notably advancing in recent years, the Senior Leadership Team shortlisted in the Outstanding SLT category of the 2019 TES Awards, recognised as runner-up as Best School for All-Rounders (2017), Best School for Co-Curricular Activities (2018), Best School for CCF (2019), Best Prep School for Sport (2020) and Best School for All-Rounders (2020) in The Week Independent School Guide, and shortlisted as 2020 Co-Educational Independent School of the Year. A sister school recently opened in Malaysia, a Lower School opened in September 2016 and a plethora of dynamic new Heads of Departments and senior teachers appointed since 2012 under the Headship of Jay Piggot.

The ISI Inspection report in February 2019 adjudged the College to be excellent in all areas with no recommendations for improvement. The report observed that pupils 'demonstrate commitment to excellence in all areas of learning; do not settle for mediocrity and express confidence in the culture of the school that inspires them to be the best they can be.' Similarly, the recent 2019 'Good Schools Guide' concludes 'You feel you are part of a school that's really going places. Led with real vision, this school offers an exciting learning environment within an extensive, top-notch campus and the students are among the most inquisitive and delightful we've come across.'

The College offers an outstanding all-round education built, in part, upon an appreciation that activity beyond the classroom enhances our pupils and their relations with staff, and that passion and commitment can transform pupils and prepare them for the richest possible lives as adults.

Life is a very full and rewarding one in a boarding school and the successful applicant will have every encouragement to contribute to this through the co-curricular programme (sport, music, drama, societies etc.). This is a very strong aspect of Epsom's education as attested by *The Week Independent Schools Guide*.

As tutors, teachers are allocated to a Boarding or Day House and are responsible for monitoring and enhancing the academic and pastoral welfare of a group of pupils within that House. This involves meeting the pupils regularly both individually and as a group, liaising between teachers and parents, taking supervision duties in the House and being involved generally in the House community. Tutors are expected to support individual pupils and groups of pupils through attendance of such events as recitals, concerts, plays and major extracurricular events.

Departmental Information

Physics is a highly popular subject at Epsom reflecting the College's distinguished tradition in science education. We follow the Edexcel IGCSE specification at GCSE and A-level students go on to study the AQA Physics specification.

The Year 7 and 8 curriculum introduces Lower School pupils to the world of physics with the aim of developing an understanding across the electricity, energy, forces and motion topics that prepare them to enter the M4 (Year 9). In these formative years we also encourage pupils to develop their investigative skills with a key focus on

practicals. The introduction of the Lower School also enabled us to introduce an innovative curriculum across the sciences with the use of iPads.

M4 (Year 9) students follow a common syllabus which prepares them for the breadth of material studied at IGCSE. We place great emphasis on students developing their understanding of core Physics concepts as well as developing their analytical, mathematical, practical and problem-solving skills. This is designed to give all pupils a good grounding before embarking on their IGCSE course through years 10 and 11.

Typically, up to 40 students opt to further their study of Physics each year at A-level. There are, currently, three Physics sets in the Lower Sixth Year and three in the Upper Sixth. Results are consistently high, with many students going on to read Physics or Engineering at top universities including a number of students who apply for Oxbridge courses each year. As part of our Sixth Form curriculum, we also run a biannual trip to CERN (Geneva) to visit the Large Hadron Collider.

The department is part of the wider STEM group, and through the introduction of STEM lessons in year 7 and the founding of a STEM club, we are actively enabling pupils to engage with these subjects.

The Department is situated in the heart of the College in its own building consisting of seven modern laboratories and an ICT suite; the Department comprises seven full time teachers and we also have the support of two dedicated full time Physics technicians. We are extremely well resourced with practical equipment, this includes the most recent wireless PASCO data logging suite, enabling us to incorporate the development of practical skills as a key part of our teaching and learning.

Departmental Principles and Aims

- To encourage a genuine enjoyment and interest of and appreciation for Physics that fosters a desire to investigate Physics beyond the curriculum.
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of concepts that they can test using experimentation and form conclusions backed up by analysis of experimental data.
- To develop pupils' numeracy problem solving-skills allowing them to answer questions whilst demonstrating an understanding of a wide range of mathematical skills.
- To enable pupils accurately and fluently to express themselves mathematically.
- To develop pupils' ability, write clearly and accurately, enabling them to explain scientific concepts and theory using key vocabulary precisely.
- To develop pupils' personal, social, cultural and historical awareness and understanding through their study of the Physics curriculum.

Distinctive Characteristics of the Department

- The department has been at the forefront of developing new uses of technology in the classroom and pioneering approaches to assessment and feedback.
- As a core subject, we aim to develop literacy and numeracy skills across all pupils in support of the wider aims of the College.
- There is a purposeful atmosphere of collaboration in the department enabling all colleagues to work together and support each other to review and refine schemes of work and teaching practices.

- As a department, we pride ourselves on the wealth of opportunities that we provide for our pupils, both inside and outside the classroom. The opportunities include: academic support sessions, collaboration with Biology and Chemistry to arranging and running the annual science appreciation week, arranging further cultural hour and subject related talks, taking a lead in running STEM activities and our biannual CERN Physics trip.

Main Tasks and Responsibilities

The successful applicant for this post will be expected to:

- Teach a standard timetable allocation (currently 21 lessons of 50 minutes over a six-day timetable);
- Contribute to the successful teaching of the subject in years 7 to 13, adapting and reassessing lesson plans to meet specific student needs, liaising with the Academic Support Department as necessary;
- Be responsible for the processes of assessment, recording and reporting for the pupils in their charge;
- Assess pupils' work frequently in line with Departmental and school policy and use the results to inform future planning, teaching and curricular development;
- Be familiar with school assessment and reporting procedures and present informative, helpful and accurate reports to parents both in writing and at parent consultation evenings;
- Enhance the quality of teaching and learning in the Department and wider College through sharing resources and good practice, lesson observation, collaborative teaching, mentoring and active participation in continuing professional development;
- Consolidate and extend learning, encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their own learning;
- Set high expectations for all pupils to deepen their knowledge and understanding and to maximise their achievement;
- Use positive management of behaviour in an environment of mutual respect that allows pupils to feel safe and secure and promotes their self-esteem;
- Make a positive contribution to the efficient running of the Department, including setting and marking examinations, writing Schemes of Work, attending departmental meetings, and undertaking administrative and other tasks as delegated by the Head of Department;
- Play an active role in the co-curricular life of the Department, including contributing to support sessions, extension programmes, competitions, trips, open days and prep school events;
- Contribute to the school wide co-curricular programme as requested by the Assistant Head: Total Curriculum. This may include coaching sport at the appropriate level or delivering activity programmes over the six day working week;
- Work as a tutor in either the Lower School, or in a day or boarding house as requested by the Second Master;
- Adhere to, and promote, all College policies and procedures;
- Undertake any other reasonable task as directed by the Headmaster, Deputy Head Academic or Head of Department.

The College reserves the right to vary or amend the duties and responsibilities of the post holder at any time according to the needs of the College's business.

Epsom College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Criteria for the Appointment:

Essential

- Possess an excellent degree in Physics or related subject;
- Demonstrate the ability to teach GCSE and A Level;

- Demonstrate an innovative and imaginative approach to teaching and learning, showing the capability to deliver inspirational and informative lessons to a variety of age ranges and abilities;
- Display a willingness to be involved in all aspects of departmental development, be a dedicated team-player who strives for excellence and leads by example;
- Be able to demonstrate a positive and authoritative rapport with all pupils, showing excellent and effective classroom management skills;
- Show excellent communication skills to enable effective dialogue with pupils, parents, staff and visitors;
- Be organised and self-motivated, with a proven record for meeting targets and deadlines;
- Have a sharp and progressive vision of the subject and of teaching and learning in a successful and dynamic school;
- Display an ability to perform well and remain professional whilst under pressure, be tactful and discreet, whilst mindful of observing Safeguarding and professional standards;
- Be committed to boarding school life and willing to engage in a range of co-curricular activities;
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to personal continuous professional development;
- Display a smart and professional appearance, representing the College in a positive manner.

Desirable

- Provide evidence of an impressive track record of GCSE and A Level results.

In order to arrive at a decision, the selection panel may enhance any or all of the desirable criteria.

The College has its own salary scale, and offers a generous fee remission for the sons and daughters of staff and accommodation may be available.

The offer of the role would be made subject to receipt of references, proof of relevant qualifications, Teaching Regulation Agency and other relevant checks for teaching positions in the UK, obtaining a letter of professional standing from the professional regulating authority for teachers who have worked outside the UK where appropriate, Enhanced Disclosure and Barring check, an overseas check, if appropriate, and pre-placement medical assessment that are all satisfactory to Epsom College. Proof of entitlement to work within the United Kingdom will be required.

All employees are required to ensure that all duties and responsibilities are discharged in accordance with the College's Health and Safety Policy. They should take reasonable care for their own Health and Safety and that of others who may be affected by what they do or do not do. Staff should correctly use work items provided by the College, including personal protective equipment in accordance with training and instruction.

Anyone wishing to discuss these details further may contact Chris Telfer-Mason, Head of Physics, by e-mail: chris.telfer-mason@epsomcollege.org.uk

Candidates are asked to complete an online Application Form available from our website www.epsomcollege.org.uk along with a letter of application and submit these as soon as possible. Applications will be assessed in order of receipt and interviews may occur at any stage after applications are received. We therefore invite interested candidates to apply as soon as possible.

Please contact Morven McDonald, Assistant to the Headmaster's PA, with any queries regarding the application process on 01372 821001 or morven.mcdonald@epsomcollege.org.uk

The closing date for applications is Monday, 1st March at 9 a.m.