



Wimbledon College

125 Years of forming men for others



Head of English

required from January 2020

Salary scale : WCMS/UPS[Inner London] +TLR1b[£9,666]

Closing date: 12pm Friday 4th October

Wimbledon College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people. The successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

'Wimbledon College is an outstanding school'

Diocesan Inspection July 2015



*A Jesuit school founded in 1892 for improvement in living and learning
to the greater glory of God and the common good*

Head of English Application Pack

We are seeking to appoint a dynamic and innovative teacher to lead our excellent English Department which comprises of ten teaching staff. Each member of the department is seen as an integral part of the team, working together, sharing ideas and developing resources cohesively. The successful candidate will have the capacity to bring innovative ideas to the classroom and show a strong record of raising student attainment through their teaching.

Wimbledon College prides itself on its exam results at both GCSE and A level. This is a fantastic opportunity for exceptional teachers and you do not need to be a practising Catholic to apply. Visits to the school are welcome by appointment

Job Specification

- The strategic development of the department and the annual Department Development Plan
- The line management of English
- Monitoring and developing standards of teaching and learning in the department
- Performance Management of staff within the department
- Responsibility for the drawing up and updating of schemes of work
- Responsibility for the schemes of assessment
- Managing the composition of sets and classes
- Managing the departmental timetable
- Managing preparations for public examinations.
- Managing intervention strategies for the department
- Quality assurance of reporting to parents
- Resourcing the department and managing departmental capitation
- Reporting of standards and examination results to the Head master and Senior Leadership
- Liaising with Heads of Line to monitor classes or specific students
- To report regularly to your Line Manager
- Carrying out such other tasks commensurate with the above as may be required from time to time.

Person Specification

- You will be suitably qualified to lead a department.
- You will be able to teach across all key stages in English
- You will be able to demonstrate enthusiasm, leadership and innovation in teaching, leading to the raising of standards within your department and the whole school
- You will have the drive to motivate both pupils and staff to achieve their full potential
- You will have experience of successful collaboration, mentoring and modelling good practice
- You will understand the importance of using pupil data to make effective interventions and raise levels of achievement
- Your administration and communication is efficient and positive

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Department Information

Aims and Objectives

The English Department is a close team who work hard to teach lively and engaging lessons, seeking to help pupils of all abilities develop their competence and enthusiasm for the key areas of reading, writing and speaking and listening. Enrichment is provided by extra-curricular activities in drama, debating, public speaking, a journalism club and theatre trips. Underpinning all our work is the school's ethos of 'cura persona' (the care of the individual).

English Department Staff

The department is formed by seven enthusiastic, very dedicated and hardworking people who, together, ensure that all pupils achieve their full potential.

Responsibility

Head of Department
KS4 & 5 Coordinator
KS3 Coordinator
Teachers of English

Name

Len Hillhouse
Mark Simpson
Alice Walker / Antoinette Torto*
Andrea Black-Thompson
Jermaine Joseph
Mateusz Slempek
Lui-Ting Yeung

*Maternity Cover

Accommodation and Resources

The department has a specially designated English Staff Room, where each teacher has their own PC, plus work and storage areas. Seven English classrooms are located nearby, each with interactive whiteboards and PCs. A library for the lower school is accommodated in a classroom near to the Staff Room.

English Curriculum

At KS3, pupils have four periods a week of 50 minutes each which increase to 5 periods a week in KS4. There are currently 7 groups in Years 7-9 and 8 classes in Years 10 & 11. English Literature and English Language & Literature (Lang/Lit) are taught in the Sixth Form.

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Information about the School

Wimbledon College was founded in 1892 by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) to provide education and preparation for university entrance at a time when Catholic children were barred from such opportunities. Today, the College is a voluntary aided comprehensive secondary school for boys ages 11 to 18. The school is in the London Borough of Merton and remains in the trusteeship of the Society of Jesus.

The Jesuits have a distinctive approach to education. This approach is summed up by St Ignatius Loyola's vision for Jesuit schools as being "for improvement in living and learning for the greater glory of God and the common good." There are some 3,400 Jesuit schools, universities and educational institutions worldwide educating 2.5 million students in 68 countries.

Central to St Ignatius' vision and to the College is the education of the whole person, providing each pupil with the opportunity to strive for excellence in all that they do.

The College currently has close to 1300 boys on roll including 270 in the Sixth Form. There are seven teaching groups in each year (known as lines in Jesuit schools) at Key Stage 3, with eight in Key Stage 4.

We were graded as Good in our most recent Ofsted inspection in 2017. Examination results are excellent and consistently well above national averages. Full details of examination results are available on our website.

The teaching staff is well established with a small annual turnover. All teachers are specialists in their subjects and there is a CPD programme supporting teachers at all stages of their career. Teaching Support Assistants are assigned to departments and provide cover for absent staff as well as administration support for the department.

The school operates a Sixth Form partnership with the neighbouring Ursuline High School with pupils able to attend classes on both sites. Classes in the Sixth Form are coeducational. The Sixth form offers a wide range of A Level and Btec Level 3 courses as well as a one year Level 2 course. The majority of our Year 11 [Syntax] boys continue into Sixth Form at the College and in recent years all of our pupils have moved into education, employment or training. Post A Level the majority of our pupils go on to university with over 40% going to Russell Group universities.

Wimbledon College has a strong system of pastoral care and discipline. All teachers are form tutors and work with Heads of Line in ensuring every boy is supported, cared for and challenged to progress academically and become involved in the wider life of the school. The school's intake is truly comprehensive academically, socially and economically and ethnically. It draws from across southwest London and from Surrey and north of the Thames also. Last year saw boys join the College from over 40 different schools. Places in Y7 are regularly oversubscribed threefold.

The school is fortunate to have a strong Special Needs Department staffed by four specialist SEN teachers and over thirty Learning Support Assistants. The department has its own base with teaching rooms and a treatment room. There are around twelve boys with Statements of Educational Need/EHCPs in each year group of 200. The needs of the boys are varied and it is the school's practice for all boys to be supported in lessons as much as possible. We also have an

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extensive programme supporting incoming Year 7 [Figures] boys to catch up on literacy and numeracy skills.

The work of the Chaplaincy is a core feature of the school, judged outstanding in two recent diocesan inspections. We have a full time lay chaplain who is fully involved in the life of the College. The Jesuit community in Wimbledon provides priests to celebrate the sacraments and to assist the chaplaincy. There is a full programme of liturgy marking the seasons and great feasts of the Church's year.

The school is accommodated in striking Grade II listed buildings on Edge Hill, above the parish church of the Sacred Heart, on a spacious green site in a conservation area. Private and public funds have facilitated a substantial development of the facilities of the College over the last fifteen years. This includes a new sports hall, learning resources centre and computer centre, a new dining room, sixth form centre and a new Music School. Other areas of the school have been refurbished including the swimming pool. Extensive renovations of the historic parts of the school have seen significant upgrading to classrooms. There is IT provision in every classroom and over the last year we have introduced full wifi coverage across the site. As well as a pitch on site the College has its own playing fields within walking distance.

The school has a strong tradition of drama and music. There is a well-equipped auditorium with raked retractable seating, a stage with revolve, and full lighting and sound rigs. Recent productions have included *Oliver*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Oklahoma!* and *Larkrise*. The English and Drama Departments organise frequent visits to plays and invite theatre companies into the school. The Strings Project is an innovative collaboration with the London Mozart Players which each year challenges forty Y7 boys to learn a string instrument and to perform in concerts. Many go on to join our bands and ensembles.

There is a very extensive sports programme in the school, financially supported by parents' donations to the School Fund. We have representative fixtures in many sports. Our major sports are rugby, football, cricket, basketball, swimming and athletics. We compete against many of the best state and independent schools in London on a weekly basis. Many of our boys achieve individual representative honours at local and national level. In addition to this we offer a wide variety of minor sports which are open to all pupils and encourage participation and enjoyment.

We encourage all of our boys to be involved in extra-curricular clubs and activities and we offer over 80 different such opportunities to the boys. These include a 3-D printing club, Lego Club, Chess and a model railway club. Well over 90% of the boys are involved in at least one activity with a significant number participating in more.

Innovation balanced by a thoroughly traditional approach to school life and learning is the hallmark of success at Wimbledon College. Please see our website for further information: wimbledoncollege.org.uk

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Applying to teach in a Jesuit school

You may be a committed Roman Catholic and know a lot about the Jesuits, or you may be from a different faith, or have no religious background. You may know little or nothing about the Jesuits. Whichever it may be, we hope this short introduction will help you to gain a basic understanding of what Jesuit schools are, and to decide whether a Jesuit school is a place where you will be happy and thrive.

The Jesuits

The Society of Jesus (popularly known as the Jesuits) is a Religious Order within the Catholic Church. Founded in 1540 by St Ignatius Loyola and nine companions, there are around 18,000 Jesuits today in almost every country of the world.

Most Jesuits are priests, but there are also Jesuit Brothers and Jesuits in studies preparing for ordination. Jesuits take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and lead a common life in community. As well as in schools and universities, Jesuits are to be found in a wide range of other works from parishes and retreat houses, to hospitals and prisons, missions in developing countries, work with refugees, in scientific laboratories, medicine and health care, film, television and the arts, architecture, business and industry, politics and community action, spiritual direction, writing, academic and social research, philosophy, theology and biblical studies, interreligious dialogue, archaeology and astronomy, and military chaplaincy.

Jesuit schools

There are eleven Jesuit schools in Britain, including two comprehensive schools, one state primary school, two senior independent boarding schools, four preparatory schools, and an independent day school in Scotland with its own junior school.

These schools are part of a much wider network of Jesuit education. The Society of Jesus is responsible for 3,780 primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities educating some 2½ million students in over 70 countries. This great responsibility and enterprise is undertaken in partnership with thousands of lay people, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, who share the vision and spirit of Jesuit education. It is their generosity and commitment which make the Jesuit identity and mission of the schools a reality. All of the Jesuit schools in Britain are led by lay head teachers.

In most of the schools, a majority of the pupils will come from Catholic backgrounds.

Teachers in Jesuit schools come from a wide range of religious and philosophical backgrounds. Many will be committed Catholics or belong to other Christian churches, while others will have a Catholic or Christian background but have questions about their faith. Some will be from other religions. Others may have no particular religious belief. All have an important and valued part to play in the education of children and young people in Jesuit schools.

Expectations of teachers in Jesuit schools

If you join the staff of a Jesuit school, you will be joining a strong Christian community with a sense of purpose. Its underlying values of respect for the individual and giving each person every opportunity to develop their talents and grow as a person will be accorded to you as much as to everyone else. Generosity is a hallmark of Jesuit schools, both in what is expected from staff and as an attitude encouraged and fostered in the pupils.

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Many of the expectations of your work as a teacher in a Jesuit school will be exactly the same expectations any good school would have. These include being competent and enthusiastic in your teaching, being interested in and committed to the pastoral care and personal development of your pupils, and playing an active role in the wider life of the school.

In a Jesuit school there will also be expectations that you will support the school's Jesuit character, including its prayer and worship, its historical and spiritual traditions, its emphasis on growth in faith and the service of others, its values of personal responsibility, tolerance and justice, and its promotion of intellectual enquiry and striving for excellence.

Values, personal opinions and conscience

Parents who send their children to Jesuit schools do so in the expectation that the teaching, the character of the school, and the values and opinions communicated to their children will accord with their own Catholic faith.

The Catholic Church has a long tradition of teaching on ethical and social issues as well as its theological beliefs. The Church tries to balance clear teaching, on sometimes controversial issues, with the practical pastoral care of individuals who may find that teaching difficult to live up to. This is no different in a Catholic school community. We strive for the highest standards, informed by Catholic moral and social teaching, and are committed to compassion, reconciliation and the building up of a community built on love and mutual respect.

The example of your life as a teacher is important. Just as teachers are expected professionally to set a good example to their pupils, so teachers in Catholic schools are expected to give good public example which is consistent with the values of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

No teacher in a Jesuit school is asked to speak or act against his or her conscience. The Catholic Church explicitly teaches that conscience, informed by appropriate study, is the highest authority for the individual. However, if you choose to work in a Catholic school, there is an expectation that you will do nothing to undermine the Catholic faith and practice that is the school's *raison d'être* and way of life.

Of course, we recognise that many people will have different views on a range of topics. Catholics themselves hold views that sometimes do not accord with the Church's official teaching. In a Catholic school we are responsible for forming children and young adults. We try to do so in a way that imparts the religious and moral views of their parents, and of the Church, and at the same time encourages increasing independence in forming and expressing their own views. In practice, we are confident you will find Jesuit schools are open and tolerant places. They clearly articulate the tradition of beliefs and values of Catholic Christianity but do not seek to indoctrinate or foist unwelcome views on impressionable young people.

Further information

The identity and mission of Jesuit schools is set out in a document called *The Characteristics of Jesuit Education* which is available on the Jesuit Institute website. Each school will have its own mission statement which sets out how it realizes its own identity and mission as a Jesuit school in its particular circumstances and for its pupils and community.

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