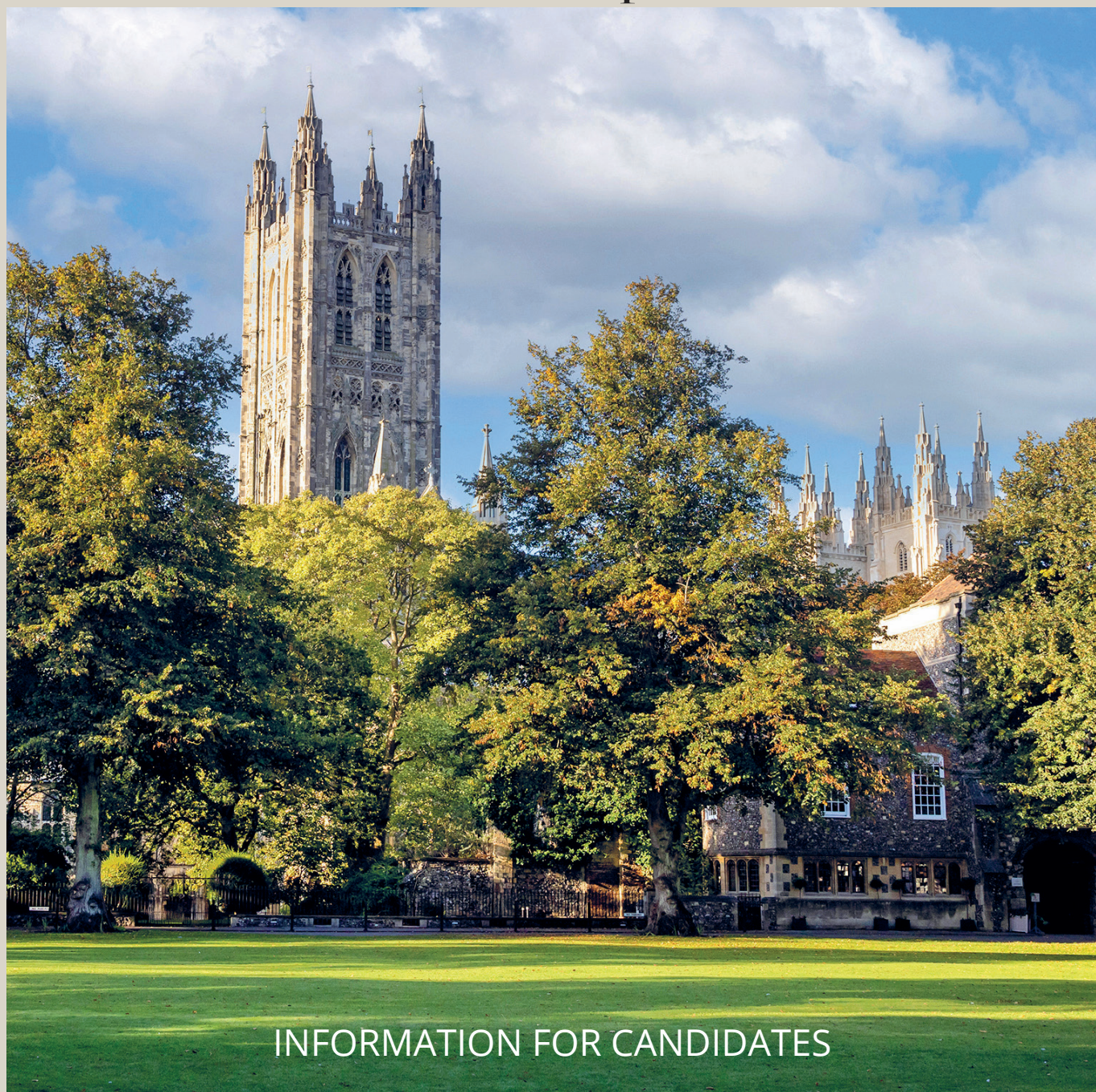




THE
KING'S SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

French Language Assistant (in the region of 7-10 hours per week) Start date: Sept 2026



INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES



Welcome from The Head

Dear Candidate,

Many thanks indeed for your interest in this role as French Language Assistant at The King's School Canterbury.

King's is a simply wonderful place to live and to work. Since joining as Head in September 2023, I have been struck by the remarkable warmth of the welcome that I have received here and by the friendliness, mutual respect and authenticity of the relationships between staff and pupils.

Our incredibly rich and broad curriculum and co-curricular programme create an environment where it feels that anything is possible, where pupils are known and supported as individuals, and where they are encouraged to pursue their own unique path through King's and beyond.

Around 75% of our pupils are boarders (equal numbers of boys and girls) and our pupil body is drawn from a range of backgrounds both at home and abroad. We have a generous bursary provision and have recently launched an ambitious campaign to turbo charge this and to further widen access to our School. With this diverse and inclusive community, global mindedness and open-mindedness are hallmarks of our School. Pupils achieve excellent outcomes in external examinations, but a King's education looks far beyond this. Our remarkably broad curriculum and our enrichment programme serve to develop pupils as thinkers, and as learners, and prepares them to make a positive mark on the world beyond school. We also want to ensure that pupils enjoy their time with us – that their school days are filled with joy, exploration and discovery.

King's is also a wonderful place to work. Staff here are talented, committed and collegial, and there is a culture of mutual respect that runs through the whole community. Canterbury itself is a vibrant and beautiful city, with excellent transport links to London and the wider South East, and the School offers a strong package of benefits and professional development opportunities. We want the people who work here to feel as supported and stretched as our pupils do.

I do look forward to meeting you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jude Lowson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jude Lowson, Head



About King's

The King's School Canterbury is a co-educational, full boarding and day school, educating pupils from aged 3 to 18 in different schools.

We have three schools based in Canterbury, as well as franchise schools overseas, two in Shenzhen (China) and one in Vattanacville (Cambodia.) All the Schools pride themselves on the dual pursuit of academic and co-curricular excellence, whilst offering high levels of pastoral care. With a strong international intake, King's celebrates the fact that it is a traditional British school with a modern and global ethos. King's is particularly well known for music, creativity and drama.

Our Schools

King's educates children from 13-18, both boarding and day pupils. It is situated in a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the heart of the historic Cathedral city of Canterbury in Kent. Steeped in history, the School occupies various sites around the city, with the centre being in the Cathedral Precincts. There are currently 870 pupils on the School roll, 670 of whom are boarders. The pupils occupy six boys' boarding houses, seven girls' boarding houses and three day houses. The School welcomes international pupils from multiple countries. Not surprisingly, we positively celebrate the diversity of our pupil body.

Junior King's occupies 80 glorious acres on the banks of the River Stour, in Sturry, three miles from Canterbury. Originally founded in 1879, the Junior school started its life in the heart of Canterbury. However, in 1929 the School moved to Sturry and was opened by Rudyard Kipling. In its picturesque setting, the School boasts a sixteenth-century Manor House and Tithe Barn.

The International College was launched in 2018 and is effectively a foundation school for international pupils aged 13-17 who wish to enter the British education system. There are currently 73 pupils at The International College. The College is essentially a pathway to British excellence. It is located in a purpose-built, award-winning building on our Malthouse campus. It is ideal for pupils who wish to improve their English language skills and be prepared for entry into a British school, (often King's senior school). We offer a one-year fast-track GCSE programme and the results achieved are excellent. Adjacent to the International College is a modern sports centre, that is particularly popular for fencing.





The Department

The Modern Languages Department is exceptionally wide-ranging and successful. In addition to excellent examination results, it encourages confident communication, academic rigour and high levels of literary and cultural awareness. In each of the languages taught we aim to provide pupils with a tool for life: a command of a foreign language that will enable confident and effective communication and serve as a key foundation for future educational and career opportunities.

Set in attractive Tudor buildings (Elizabeth I celebrated her 40th birthday here), the department is a busy and thriving place to work. Representing eight modern foreign languages, there are eighteen teachers and six assistants, with a diverse mix of personalities and talents, native and non-native speakers.

The French Department is currently comprised of eight teachers and two language assistants. Working with the committed and motivated team of linguists at King's is fun and rewarding. In the Shell Year (Year 9), pupils choose two languages from French, German, Mandarin and Spanish. They also have the option to study Italian, Japanese, Russian and Turkish off-timetable. In the Remove Year (Year 10), they start the GCSE courses.

Currently, we offer AQA GCSE for French, German and Spanish, and Edexcel for Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Turkish and Russian. It is compulsory for all pupils to continue with one language to GCSE level. In the 6b and 6a years (Years 12 and 13), students work towards their A Levels, following the AQA course for French, German and Spanish and the Edexcel course for Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Turkish and Russian.

Academic results are consistently strong, with healthy numbers of pupils leaving King's each year for a variety of modern languages and linguistics courses at top universities. In addition, a wide range of co-curricular activities is offered and encouraged. All pupils have the opportunity to join literature and social clubs, as well as support groups and academic clinics for grammar, translation and essay-writing. We are particularly proud of the many penfriend connections that have now been established.



The Role

Reporting to: Head of Modern Foreign Languages /French Language Specialist

Purpose of the Role

Under the management of the French Language Specialist and the Head of Modern Languages, the French Language Assistant will deliver high-quality conversation instruction to individuals or small groups of pupils preparing for GCSE, A Level and DELF exams.

The postholder will support pupils' confidence, fluency and engagement in spoken language, and will aim to instil in them a love of language-learning and cultural curiosity.

Key Responsibilities

- Deliver conversation instruction according to the timetable drawn up in consultation with the Head of Department and the French Language Specialist.
- Ensure they are familiar with the speaking components of the public exams offered by the School – currently GCSE, A Level and DELF.
- Attend training given by the Head of Department or Language Specialist.
- Provide regular feed-back on pupil progress and report pupil absences.
- Encourage a love of language-learning with pupils.
- Help conduct internal oral exams.
- Provide cover for the Department when needed.
- Play an active role in the life of the Department's clubs, societies and trips.

The Job description is indicative only and postholders should expect to undertake other tasks and duties as reasonably expected by the Head of Modern Languages and School.

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	• Good standard of education, ideally educated to degree level or equivalent.	
Knowledge / Experience	• Native or near native fluency in the target language. • Excellent spoken and written French. •	• Experience of working with young people in an educational setting. • Experience of delivering language conversation sessions, tutoring or language support. • Familiarity with GCSE, A Level and/or DELF speaking examinations. • Experience of supporting oral assessments and examination preparation.
Skills and Aptitudes	• Ability to motivate, engage and inspire pupils in language learning. • Strong interpersonal and communication skills. • Ability to adapt teaching approaches to suit individual pupils and small groups. • Ability to provide constructive feedback on pupil performance and progress. • Competent IT skills	
Personal Qualities	• Enthusiasm for French language and culture. • Flexible and willing to support the wider work of the department. • Ability to work collaboratively as part of a team.	





Living in Canterbury

King's is at the heart of the city, with much of the School nestled around the Green Court, within the Precincts of Canterbury Cathedral. This creates a beautiful and tranquil working environment, within a small but bustling city, which is also home to two universities.

The River Stour runs through the heart of the Canterbury, with boat tours giving a chance to see some of the city's hidden gems. There is a busy high street, gorgeous medieval lanes, and a good range of shops, plenty of places to eat, two cinemas and a city theatre that sees performances ranging from Shakespeare's *The King & I* and Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* to stand-up comedy and critically-acclaimed musicals.

If the history in the city is not enough, there are plenty of castles to visit nearby. There is beautiful countryside all around the city with plenty of pretty villages nearby, as well as Blean Woods where wild bison now roam. The coastline is an easy journey away by car or train, with a variety of sandy beaches, cliffs and long coastal walks.

The M25 and M20 are easily accessible making Gatwick and Heathrow within reasonable driving distance, and there is the high-speed train link into London, getting you to St Pancras in just under an hour. For those wanting the continent, Dover and Folkstone are just a short car journey away.

Applications

Applications should be submitted online through the [King's School website \(Current Job Vacancies • The King's School, Canterbury \(kings-school.co.uk\)\)](https://www.kings-school.co.uk/current-job-vacancies) and should include a Cover Letter and a CV, by 23 June 2026.

If you have any queries please contact the HR Recruitment Team: recruitment@kings-school.co.uk.

Working at King's

Hear from our staff what it's like to work at The King's School.





Benefits

Pension

Option to join the Royal London (defined contribution) with up to 10% employer contribution.

Life Assurance

All employees are automatically enrolled into a life assurance scheme that pays benefits to dependents.

Employee Assistance Programme

A free confidential helpline available 7 days a week, 365 days a year and the option of accessing face to face counselling.

Sports Centre

All employees have gold membership with access to the pool, gym and other facilities.

Cycle to Work Scheme

The school operate a salary sacrifice cycle scheme which could provide savings of up to 40%, dependent on salary and cycle cost.

Eye Care

Regular VDU users can receive a financial contribution to the cost of both eye tests and glasses.

Financial Advice

King's facilitates regular free impartial financial advice to all employees.

Lunch

Staff enjoy lunch together in our school dining rooms during term time.





Safeguarding

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The School may carry out online searches on shortlisted applicants and all applicants will be required to provide details of their online profile, including social media accounts, as part of their application.

The post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. The School is therefore permitted to ask job applicants to declare all convictions and cautions on a self-declaration form in advance of attending an interview (including those which are “spent” unless they are “protected” under the DBS filtering rules) in order to assess their suitability to work with children.



Our commitment to Diversity, Inclusion & Equality

King's is committed to fostering a welcoming and inclusive community where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect. We seek to recruit staff who share our commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion, and who are dedicated to creating an environment in which every pupil and colleague can thrive.



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