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ST LAWRENCE  
COLLEGE

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## ST LAWRENCE COLLEGE

### TEACHER OF ENGLISH

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

St Lawrence College is a boarding and day school in Ramsgate, East Kent for pupils aged 3-18. It is a member of the prestigious HMC group of schools and was founded in 1879, with the Junior School being a member of IAPS. There are currently around 670 pupils across the College, with around 220 in the Junior School (which includes the Nursery) and around 450 in the Senior School (from Year 7). Numbers have grown substantially in recent years, with the Senior School now broadly at capacity with waiting lists at some points of entry, whilst the Junior School is continuing to grow. At the same time, numbers per year group are deliberately kept to a maximum of about 70 to maintain the close community ethos of the College, which leans heavily upon a strong Christian foundation.

The College is very well resourced, with significant investment in the past six years including a new girls' boarding house, a new theatre, a new sports hall, a second astro-turf sports pitch (water base), plus a £6M Science, Art and Technology block due for completion in May 2018. Alongside major building projects, continued incremental renovations have taken place throughout the school, and there are significant development projects planned for the future.

Boarding is central to the ethos of the school, with around 190-200 Senior School pupils being boarders, with a % that increases in older year groups. The majority of all pupils are British and the largest group of boarders comes from the UK, but the School community is incredibly diverse, with 31 nationalities present, and a very active focus upon integration. It is a remarkably friendly, vibrant and tolerant community.

The School has compulsory Saturday lessons from Year 9 and Saturday activities in the Junior School and Kirby House, with a traditional boarding school routine that day pupils fully subscribe to. There are four boarding houses: Kirby House for Y7 & 8 is for coeducational day and boarding, Bellerby House is for boarding girls Y9-13 and Lodge and Tower House provide boys' boarding for Y9-13. Laing House and Newlands House respectively cater to day girls and boys Y9-13. The School is truly coeducational, with more girls than boys in a number of year groups, and much of the growth in recent years has been from day girl pupils; the School is considering the possibility of opening another girls' house at some time in the future, possibly for day and boarding pupils combined. All teaching staff are assigned a tutor group in one of the Houses, and are expected to contribute to the broader life of a busy boarding and day school, through co-curricular activities, trips, academic enrichment etc.

Academic standards are high, even though the school is only broadly selective; St Lawrence regularly has higher A Level grades at A\*-B% than local selective grammar schools, with a high proportion of pupils leaving to attend Russell Group universities. Two former pupils started at Oxford University in 2017, plus a wide





range of other prestigious universities like Warwick, Durham and KCL. At the same time, the School rejoices in the success of less academically able pupils who may gain C grades at A Level and then proceed to a good, appropriate university. The target for the College is to obtain 65% A\*-B grades at A Level, which is realistic; the top quartile regularly obtain 90% A\*-B. These results are fostered by a close sense of community and a supportive atmosphere that puts great emphasis upon the needs of the individual pupil. This has been partly responsible for growing numbers of local day pupils joining the school, a number from local selective maintained schools.

It is a hallmark of the teaching of St Lawrence that the needs of individual pupils are recognised and addressed, across the ability range. Progress is closely monitored through a regular assessment cycle of approximately three weeks, and appropriate use of baseline data and target grades. With small set sizes averaging about 15 up to GCSE and rarely above 10-12 at A Level, teachers are able to give close individual attention, including extra sessions if necessary.

The College also has a strong and growing reputation for co-curricular success. The extended day and week of school life fosters a very rich co-curricular life, including House Play and House Singing competitions, whole school performances and an excellence in sport; hockey has been a particular area of success in recent years, including becoming U13 National Champions in 2017 and U18 National Champions at indoor hockey in January 2018, but across all sports an increasing number of pupils are representing their county and nation. The level of sport provision and success is a significant attraction to the College for prospective pupils. An emphasis is placed upon careful balancing of time and focus to enable pupils to be involved in a rich variety of activities that support academic success.

At the heart of school life is Chapel, which all pupils attend twice per week, plus a further service on Sunday for boarders.

### **The Department**

The English Department consists of five subject specialists who teach across the curriculum as well as a Librarian who works across the Senior and Junior schools.

Years 7 to 9 follow a specially designed internal curriculum which exceeds the requirements of the National Curriculum whilst remaining true to its ethos of breadth and challenge. Pupils follow the Edexcel IGCSE specifications in English Language and English Literature from Year 10, leading to final assessment at the end of Year 11. Both subjects are assessed by examinations and coursework tasks. At A Level, the exciting new two year Edexcel course was introduced in September 2015.

The departmental book stock is robust and new titles are added regularly, often at the request of an individual teacher. There are many poetry anthologies on the shelves and we try to use both 'ancient and modern'. There is a stock of DVDs in the English office, as well as a number of audio-visual resources and paper-based support materials, and electronic resources shared among colleagues. Complete sets of Text: Building Skills in English textbooks are available for Years 7 – 9 as are the Edexcel textbooks for IGCSE; colleagues are most welcome, however, to develop and use their own methods and resources.

English lessons are housed in the main classroom block, fully equipped with interactive white boards and all necessary equipment. Some Kirby lessons (Year 7 and 8) are taught in the Kirby House form rooms. The College Library was refurbished in summer 2015, and is always available; similarly, the Kirby House Library has been completely restocked and relocated, and is now used enthusiastically by younger students.



The English department is known for its ability to work with learners from a variety of backgrounds, nationalities, and abilities. This is facilitated by the exceptional level of support offered by the EAL and AEN (Additional Educational Needs) Departments: though the majority of new overseas students entering the College at Year 9 or thereafter will study an EAL course (taught entirely in the EAL Department), a very large number of EAL 'graduates' are studying First Language courses alongside native speakers, often achieving the highest grades. Most who join us in Year 7 (or indeed earlier, in the Junior School) are in this position by GCSE.

Streaming has been introduced for all ages: top, middle, and bottom in Years 9 – 11, and one top set and two parallel lower sets in Years 7 and 8. Class sizes are kept as small as possible in the lower sets to facilitate individual support and attention, while top sets follow a curriculum designed to stretch and challenge the most able. Currently, the lowest set at IGCSE only sits examinations in English Language, although they are exposed to a wide range of non-examined literature throughout their course. All of our GCSE pupils sit the 'higher tier' papers, with a pass rate in 2017 of over 90% A\* – C for both English Language (including 39% A\* – A) and English Literature (including 40% A\* – A). The A Level pass rate has been at 100% for many years, and the course is popular. Our Sixth Form groups fully reflect the diversity of the College community: there is a good mix of day and boarding students (including a few who started their career in EAL), with a healthy number intending to study English at university.

All members of the Department are encouraged to contribute to life outside the classroom. Debating is enthusiastically attended; many students are currently participating in the inter-house competition. Several colleagues run subject clinics during Academic Time (a dedicated half hour slot after lunch twice a week), and there is a weekly Kirby (Year 7 and 8) English Club where students have enjoyed creative writing workshops, public speaking competitions, and special activities such as shadowing the last General Election. We take advantage of the High Speed rail link to offer frequent theatre trips to London; closer to home, the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury is nationally renowned and often hosts groups such as the Royal Shakespeare Company on tour.

### **Person Requirement**

The successful candidate will be able to communicate a genuine passion for teaching English language and literature, supported by a high level of subject knowledge. You will have the ability to challenge and inspire students across the full age and ability range, from Year 7 to A Level, and to support and motivate not only those aspiring to read English at university, but those who find literacy particularly challenging. You will demonstrate a high level of personal initiative, be able to work independently when required, and be eager to contribute to a friendly, dedicated and supportive team of colleagues.

All colleagues are expected to act as a pastoral tutor, attached to a day or boarding house, and should be willing to be involved with the wider life of a busy boarding and day school. This position would suit an experienced teacher or NQT, for which full statutory induction is provided. Regardless of the level of experience, a deep vocational commitment to teaching is essential.

SR Fraczek

Head of English

February 2018



## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **CLASSROOM TEACHER**

1. Follow, or devise, the scheme of work for each year group being taught, as agreed by the Head of Department.
2. Be aware of the continuous assessment work needed for the various components of each syllabus and to liaise with the Head of Department with regard to the nature of that coursework and guidelines for its internal marking and moderation.
3. To ascertain from the Head of Department attainment targets for specific year groups and to follow any departmental guidelines concerning how they might be attained.
4. To set adequate and suitable classwork and prep, providing feedback on pupil work and keeping an accurate record of pupil progress as set out in school policies.
5. To be aware of the special needs of individual pupils and if needed, to approach the SENCO for guidance concerning how those needs could be met.
6. Liaise with the Head of Department, and Housemasters/ Housemistress in matters concerning pupil progress and any areas for concern.
7. To complete grade assessments punctually and be prepared to give objective views on named pupils at pupil progress meetings.
8. To complete parent reports punctually and according to the guidelines set out in Common Room procedure.
9. Liaise with Head of Department, Housemasters/Housemistress and the Examinations officer in matters relating to entries for external examinations.
10. To attend Departmental meetings and Staff meetings.
11. To communicate with Parents about their child's progress at Parents meetings.
12. To carry out any other relevant duties, as required by the Principal or Deputy Heads. These are likely to include extra-curricular games and activities, and pastoral responsibilities within day or boarding Houses. These will be specific to an individual teacher.