

Job Vacancy

Teacher of Religious Studies (Full Time)

Closing date for applications:
Noon on Wednesday 24th April
2019



A Word from the Headmaster

Thank you for your interest in the position of Teacher of Religious Studies that we currently have here at Denstone College. I very much hope to welcome you to the College, and allow you to see what we consider to be an excellent place to work. At Denstone College, we believe that school should be a transformational, inspirational, life-changing experience where children grow into young adults ready to contribute to the world. It is my aim that children love being at school here; that they embrace the opportunity to find and pursue their passions, reaching their potential so that they leave well-equipped to take their place in society.

I see Denstone as a beacon of excellence across the Midlands. As such the College "shines the light", providing inspiration, discovery and understanding. It "enables the journey" by teaching the children to become ever more independent, resilient and confident. It "serves the community" not least by creating rounded and grounded, caring members of society but also in its further development of partnership schemes. And it acts as a "reference point" whereby Denstonians current and old can reflect on the values that have been instilled here such as honesty, endeavour and kindness. The College was founded in 1868 by Nathaniel Woodard, as an independent school with the aim of providing education based on "sound principle and sound knowledge, firmly grounded in the Christian faith". This aim still holds good today and there is no doubt that our beautiful Chapel is central to it, resting at the heart of our community.

With a dedicated, talented and inspiring staff, fantastic facilities and as impressive a rural setting as you could find, we balance the pursuit of academic excellence with a broad co-curricular programme. There are all manner of opportunities within and beyond the classroom in order for the pupils to find what it is that inspires them. At Denstone College, the pupils are known, nurtured and challenged to realise their potential. ISI have recently confirmed something of which we are very proud: that the standard of academic achievement and of pupils' personal development are both considered to be "Excellent". Our pupils flourish within a vigorous but encouraging environment.

This post represents an exciting opportunity for someone to join our excellent staff and support the school in going from strength to strength. If you are excited by the opportunity to become an important part of our success story, believe in young people and developing their potential and have a passion for outstanding education, please do apply for this role. I wish you the very best of luck with your application and I hope to meet you in person to share more of our ethos and the vibrant, friendly and energetic atmosphere which characterises our community. I look forward to answering any questions that you may have about the school, the education we offer and the post we are currently advertising.



About the College

Denstone is a co-educational, boarding and day, 11 – 18 school with 600 students. It's stunning main building was begun in 1868 and took five years to complete with the school opening its doors in 1873. Recent years have however seen much investment in the site, with three new teaching blocks added over the last eight years along with additional sporting facilities, boarding accommodation and general improvement. In 2017, the school was inspected by ISI and received 'excellent' judgements in all areas. A copy of the report can be found on our website at www.denstonecollege.org. Denstone is often described as a "success story", having more than doubled pupil numbers over the last fifteen years, alongside rising academic and co-curricular standards.



Mission Statement and Ethos

- To promote the highest possible standards of educational achievement in an environment where pupils are encouraged to challenge expectations and realise their true potential.
- To deliver excellence in the classroom and through wide ranging opportunities on the sports field, in music, drama, art or outdoor pursuits.
- To remain true to our belief in Achievement, Confidence and Happiness, and the College's founding aims of widening access to a sound, Christian education.
- To prepare articulate and confident young women and men, ready to play a useful role in society, with a lifelong sense of belonging.
- Our aim for all Denstonians is Happiness, Achievement and Confidence, alongside the values instilled here of Honesty, Endeavour and Kindness.



School Performance

Although an education at Denstone is all-round, teaching and learning are at the heart of what we do, and the results are impressive. These results are achieved with a relatively broad intake of pupils into the College, a fact reflected in our record of outstanding value-added, as measured by Yellis (at GCSE) and ALIS (at A Level).

Denstone is a pre-university school, and our aim is to prepare students for university and the world beyond. This means helping them achieve high grades and develop enquiring minds. All subjects are taught within specialist departmental areas providing first class facilities for pupils and staff; the recently completed Derbyshire classroom block is the most recent addition to the site, providing specialist accommodation for Mathematics and Modern Languages. A fair and flexible setting system, relatively small set sizes, regular formal assessments of academic progress across all subjects and a highly qualified and committed teaching staff all play their part in the continuing academic success of our pupils. Support for pupils with specific needs is provided through a thorough and highly effective pastoral system as well as specific programmes put in place for those on our Most Able Pupils register, including a tailored programme for potential Oxbridge applicants in our Sixth Form. Our learning support staff also work hard to provide appropriate support for those pupils who have specific learning needs.

Academic success requires high standards, and this is particularly true of the requirement to enter the full 'A' level programme in the Sixth Form, which currently stands at 14 points for pupils at Denstone and 16 points for pupils wishing to join the College in our Sixth Form (a C/4 at GCSE is 1 point, a B/6 is 2 points etc). A significant number of Denstonians achieve top grades, but for others this is an entry target that spurs them on. What supports them in these efforts is an environment which applauds success, excellent teaching by committed subject specialists, and a level of academic and pastoral mentoring that genuinely cherishes the individual.



The Benefits of Working Here

People tell us that ours is an exceptionally happy and friendly working environment, with a sociable common room and a superb team of support staff committed to making the school as great as it can be. All of our people take pride in being part of the College from our wonderful caterers to our dedicated maintenance and grounds staff, working in all weathers to keep our site looking as impressive as it does.

And of course our superb facilities available for use by staff and their families all year round. We have a challenging nine hole EGU affiliated golf course and professional, which has its own club as well as being available for pupils. There are many tennis courts, a large sports hall, a climbing wall, swimming pool, CV gym and Performance Gym, with a superb Strength and Conditioning Department for the more energetic.

We are fully committed to staff development, both for those new to the profession (offering possibilities to study for a PGCE funded by the school whilst on the job) or for the more experienced practitioner looking for career development.

Those barriers to teaching resources so often encountered elsewhere do not exist here, with secretarial assistance for staff and access to essentials like stationery and IT peripherals.

Our financial packages are competitive and there is generous investment in teachers' pensions. Remission on fees at the College is available for the children of staff and in some cases it may be available for the final years at the Prep School.

There are countless benefits to living in rural Staffordshire, some of which you will find towards the end of this brochure, but the village of Denstone draws visitors from miles around in its own right. If you ever tire of the high quality fare served at no charge in our remarkable Dining Hall, then the national award-winning farm shop, the ever popular local, the Tavern and ten minutes away, the coffee shops and eateries of the local market towns are all at your disposal. Denstone and the surrounding villages offer lovely, affordable housing, and of course there is the potential for single and family accommodation on site.



Job Description



Teacher of Religious Studies

Religious Studies is a popular and successful subject at Denstone, with lessons delivered by subject specialist teachers to all year groups. The department currently consists of three teachers, including the Head of Department, and enjoys modern teaching facilities within its own departmental area.

Over the five years from First Form to Fifth Form, pupils currently cover key beliefs from the six major world religions, along with contrasting secular perspectives such as humanism, as they link to themes studied. Key practices within these religions are also studied, both enriching understanding of beliefs and building well-informed young people, responsive to a rich world and are able to deal with difference and recognise shared goods. The department firmly believes in the value of the subject and its potential for educational challenge, cross-curricular gains, values education and the breaking down of educational barriers.

All junior school pupils (Years 7 to 9) study a course designed to establish a solid foundation for GCSE. They are provided with essential background knowledge and given the opportunity to develop their academic skills ready for GCSE.

From September 2019 GCSE religious Studies will be an optional GCSE subject, delivered in four 40 minute periods a week, and culminating in three exams at the end of the Fifth Form (Year 11). We currently follow OCR specification, which is broken into three sections: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices of Christianity; Beliefs, Teachings and Practices of Buddhism; and Religions, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a Christian perspective.

A Level RS, Philosophy and Ethics is a popular option in our Sixth Form. Here students follow the OCR specification, which is broken into three equal units: Philosophy of religion; Religious ethics; and Developments in Christian thought. There are currently 16 sixth form students studying this course and we have had some outstanding results in recent years, with 67% of entries resulting in a A* to B in Summer 2018.

Religious Studies is taught within departmental accommodation occupying three large classrooms in the modern Tookeys classroom development, which is shared with the English department. All classrooms have recently-installed Smartboards. We also have an extensive stock of books and audio-visual resources, together with a developing bank of ICT resources. The department promotes openness and a culture of sharing resources and best practice.



The department is always looking for ways to extend and enrich classroom learning. Trips range from visiting relevant places of worship and stone circles with a whole year group, to a long weekend looking at the Philosophy found in Paris. We also attend, and have hosted, major A Level revision conferences.

Denstone College has made significant strides in recent years, with expanding pupil numbers and a developing reputation for achievement in academic and other areas. This was confirmed by the latest ISI inspection (November 2017) which judged the school to be “excellent” in terms of the quality of the pupils’ academic and other achievements and also pupils’ personal development. RS lessons are noted on the ISI report for their distinctive and successful contribution as a part of our meeting all inspection criteria at this top level. The Religious Studies department has been at the forefront of recent developments at Denstone, and the successful candidate will be in a position to play their part in building further on this success.

An enthusiastic, knowledgeable and inspiring teacher is required for September 2019, possessing excellent subject knowledge and the ability to produce interesting, relevant and accessible lessons to students from any or no religious background. Religious Studies is an extremely successful and dynamic curriculum area within the College, popular with pupils and forward-thinking and innovative in nature. The successful candidate will be expected to teach around 27 periods of timetabled lessons per week (with each period 40 minutes in duration). The ability to offer a second subject alongside Religious Studies will be advantageous. All full-time teachers at Denstone act as tutors within the College’s thriving House system and are expected to contribute fully to the rich and diverse programme of activities and Sport enjoyed by pupils across all year groups.



Living in Staffordshire

We are blessed with a beautiful campus located close to the border of Derbyshire and Staffordshire. The campus is tucked out of sight, in a very pretty village, only ten minutes' drive from the market towns of Ashbourne (gateway to the Peak District) and Uttoxeter. The area is nationally renowned for its picture perfect villages and bustling market towns, walking trails, rock climbing, historic houses, arts and crafts events, festivals and other tourist attractions. Not to mention our close neighbour, Alton Towers!

40 minutes' drive away are the cities of Derby and Stoke on Trent, with their Intu shopping centres, a range of excellent independent shopping, theatre, contemporary dining and leisure. There are excellent employment opportunities and a range of national and multi-national employers including Rolls Royce, Toyota, and JCB, based in and around the region. There really is something for everyone here, from rural peaks to great transport links to metropolises such as Manchester and Birmingham.

As with many boarding schools, a good number of staff live on site in our own well-maintained staff accommodations. And the many villages in the vicinity provide good value housing, at a fraction of the prices you will pay in London and the South East. Living in Staffordshire, you dictate your own pace of life, and there is no daily grind of commuting.

What we offer as an employer

We want to attract the cream of the crop to work at the College. We seek passionate professionals to support our ambitious aims for the school, and of course our pupils. We aim to be an excellent employer and we are pleased to offer a number of benefits to our staff team. We have a very generous CPD budget and we actively invest in the highest quality of training for our teaching and support staff. The Governing Body (Denstone College Council) supports the Headmaster and Senior Management Team to promote high standards of educational achievement and to drive the strategic direction of the school. Most importantly, the Senior Management Team demonstrates its strong appreciation of the commitment of staff and this results in a highly motivated and dedicated team of talented staff who constantly strive for improvement.



Method of Appointment

Please apply by completing the appropriate application form and, in no more than two sides of A4, write a supporting statement which meets the personal specification and outlines:

- your reasons for applying for this position and a vision of what you will bring to the role;
- your experiences to date which you feel make you a suitable candidate; and
- an indication of your strengths, both personally and professionally.

All applications should be completed electronically and sent to hr@denstonecollege.net You are asked to give the names of two referees, one of which should be your current Head or employer. We will contact the referees of short-listed candidates prior to interview.

Recruitment Timeline

Closing Date – Wednesday 24th

April 2019 at noon.

Interviews to be held – TBC

Start Date – September 2019

Achievement Confidence Happiness



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