



## Teacher of PE and Girls Games

Required for September 2019

### Teacher of PE and Girls Games

The advertisement in the TES, and on the Thomas's web site, is as follows;

*A dynamic and well qualified PE specialist to contribute to our busy PE and Girls Games programme in this flourishing prep school, where our children are excelling and very happy. The willingness and ability to teach PE to some of our youngest children will be important. An active contribution to the wider life of the school is an expectation.*

Closing date: **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 9.00am**

Interviews: **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

### Thomas's London Day Schools

Thomas's London Day Schools educates over 2000 children at four schools – Thomas's Battersea, Thomas's Clapham, Thomas's Fulham, and Thomas's Kensington, and in one kindergarten in Battersea. Thomas's Academy, formerly New King's Primary School, joined the Thomas's family of schools in September 2015.

It is our prime concern that children at Thomas's are happy. We provide for their education by giving each child dignity and self-esteem through a sense of achievement, be it academic, artistic, or sporting. The central belief is that all this and more can be achieved if we can be kind to one another.

In these preparatory years we offer a broad curriculum covering a wide range of subjects and skills so that by the time they leave us our pupils will have begun to identify individual areas of talent. In a positive and stimulating environment we ensure that each child achieves the best academic results of which each child is capable.

## **Thomas's Clapham**

### **a. The School and its facilities**

The school occupies a site on Broomwood Road between Wandsworth and Clapham Commons. It is housed in a Grade II listed building which was built between 1904 and 1908 as the site for Clapham County Girls' School. Thomas's Clapham opened as a school for boys and girls in 1993 aged 4–13. There are currently 653 pupils on roll. Philip Ward took up post as Headmaster in September 2012. Before that he was the Headmaster of Feltonfleet, in Cobham, for twelve years.

The facilities at Clapham include a superb Drama studio and fully equipped theatre space, and separate Art, Pottery and Design Technology centre, newly built in 2001, and an impressive building housing the Reception classes, which opened in 2006. Exciting new outdoor play and learning areas have been created, as well as Mindfulness Place, an enchanting garden dedicated to the school's commitment to teaching Mindfulness.

The Masterplan for a significant refurbishment of the top floor (KS3) teaching areas, and the provision of new and revitalised spaces for catering and dining along with a sports hall for teaching PE, is well developed. The plan also includes the rejuvenation of the School Hall into an Atrium to further support our commitment to Expressive and Performing Arts, presentation and oracy, and enquiry based learning. The Year 1 and 2 classrooms were completely refurbished during the summer of 2016. The Year 3, 4 and 5 classrooms underwent their own transformation during the summer of 2017, along with the IT room, and some areas of the Music Department. The recent and on-going investment in digital learning is significant and exciting.

Demand for places in the school is considerable, with most children arriving into the school in Reception. Around twenty girls and boys join the school in Year 7 from Thomas's Fulham. One class of children leave at 11+ for London day and boarding schools, the majority stay until Year 8, sitting 13+ exams for the London day schools, Common Entrance (92% A\*-B in 2018) or Academic Scholarship. 56 academic and Co-curricular Scholarships were won in 2018. Approximately 75% leave for boarding schools at the end of Year 8.

#### **b. Inspiring every child**

We are a values based school, and our commitment to the Thomas's core values, central to which is kindness, permeates every aspect of school life.

The approach to teaching and learning is exciting, progressive, and challenging. Change is eagerly embraced by colleagues and pupils who share a passion for learning and finding new and better ways of doing things. Creativity, thinking skills and instilling a thirst for independent learning are at the heart of our approach. Traditional and didactic teaching methods would feel alien at Thomas's Clapham with a developing emphasis on enquiry based learning throughout the school. Continuous professional development is a strongly established culture within the school.

Whilst academic standards and expectations are very high, there is a strong emphasis on breadth with a vibrant co-curricular programme. The emphasis on the wellbeing of the whole community is compelling. Wellbeing is actively taught in the time allocated to weekly Inspiring Living lessons, continuously supporting the school wide culture generated by the commitment to Inspiring Living. This is closely aligned to our SOCIAL Time programme which actively teaches and reinforces the importance we attribute to teaching social responsibility, citizenship and the clear benefits of learning outside.

We rolled out a revised curriculum in September 2016, characterised by enquiry based learning, and the teaching of a character skills programme called the 8C's which is woven into every aspect of the curriculum. A commitment to teaching Growth Mindset has instilled a positive and optimistic approach to learning, living and leading which has been very well received.

The school was recognised by Ofsted as Outstanding in each category in February 2018.

**c. Approaching 2025**

**Approaching 2025** is our current strategic development plan which we launched in September 2018. It is the result of an eighteen month long process of consultation and collaboration involving the whole school community. **Approaching 2025** seeks to build seamlessly on all that achieved in the period 2013–2018 as a result of our commitment to the school's first strategic plan, *Inspiring every child*.

**Approaching 2025** is, above all else, a collective commitment which puts the children at the heart of our efforts to ensure that at every opportunity we are doing all we possibly can to prepare them for the not insignificant challenges of the mid and later decades of the C21.

**d. Thomas's in the future**

With the exciting news that Thomas's are to open their first senior school in September 2021, work is currently being undertaken to review existing curriculum and assessment arrangements across the family of schools. The outcomes of this process will inform the design of an enquiry based curriculum from Reception to Year 13 which will be rolled out across the group and into the senior school as it opens.

**PE and Sport at Thomas's Clapham**

**a. General**

Physical Education and Sport are very strong, and highly regarded throughout the School. Considerable resources have and will continue to be made available for both curriculum Physical Education, and the boys and girls games and sports programme.

The PE subject team has established a fine reputation for both sporting excellence, and sport for all in recent years. There is an extensive fixture list in a wide range of activities, and our aim is that every child should play for the school on a regular, weekly basis. It is our wish that every child should have regular chances to play. Our senior teams compete successfully at the highest level against prep and senior schools.

Touring at home and overseas is a regular feature of school life, and warmly supported. Recent trips have included girls Hockey to Spain, and boys rugby to France in the past year. A number of children represent Wandsworth, Surrey, and London and its districts in various sports, regional and national prep school representative teams, and even the Harlequins Rugby Academy. Thomas's Clapham pupils consistently secure sports scholarships to the leading senior independent schools, where they regularly play at representative level. Standards in every respect are very high, and the desire to see these maintained and developed is substantial.

Maintaining a healthy life-style, and high levels of pupils' fitness, supported by a key emphasis on skill acquisition, is at the heart of the PE and Games ethos. Thomas's Clapham pupils are very busy, and in the main keen, enthusiastic and ambitious about their PE and games. Our parents place a high emphasis on inclusive participation, and quite a number upon the success gained. It is, in every way, a high profile area of our school.

The three year plan for PE and Sport at Thomas's Clapham (2017–20) is forward looking and exciting. Our ambition mirrors the aspirations embedded in the school's first five year strategic plan, *Inspiring every child*.

#### **b. Staffing**

PE is staffed by outstanding and enthusiastic colleagues. The leadership of the PE team is structured as follows;

- Mrs Julie Velasco – Director of Sport
- Mr Richard Risebro – PE Subject Leader, and Head of Boys Games
- Miss Jenny Watson – Head of Girls Games

All members of the PE team have a full involvement across the range of PE and Games activities, and in some cases have a specific area of responsibility (shown in brackets below);

<p><b>Mrs Julie Velasco</b> (Director of Sport)</p>	
<p><b>Mr Richard Risebro</b> (Cricket) (PE Subject Leader, and Head of Boys Games)</p>	
<p><b>Mr Ricky Nebbett</b> (Rugby)</p> <p><b>Mr Adam Goodsell</b> (Football)</p> <p><b>Mr Olli Todd</b> (Boys Hockey)</p> <p><b>Mr Cameron Gentles</b></p>	<p><b>Miss Jenny Watson</b> (Head of Girls Games)</p> <p><b>Miss Sarah Hawkins</b> (Gymnastics)</p> <p><b>Miss Georgia Hickey</b> (Swimming)</p> <p><b>Mrs Georgina Ravenhall</b></p>

There are a number of peripatetic sports coaches who provide additional support and expertise in sports such as Cricket, Tennis, Gymnastics, and Lacrosse. Some non-specialist teachers support the games programme, both as coaches and referees.

### **c. Facilities and resources**

Thomas's Clapham in the heart of London, have access to a wide variety of facilities. On site, we have a school gymnasium, four netball and tennis courts, four outdoor hard surface cricket nets, and an external climbing wall.

Offsite boys play rugby, football and cricket at our fabulous new playing fields on the edge of Wimbledon Common where we have a fully refurbished pavilion, and several changing rooms. The school recently invested over £100K in new cricket facilities at the grounds. Girls play rounders, and together boys and girls enjoy athletics and cricket there.

The school makes use of the Wandle Centre all weather facility for hockey. A full swimming programme is delivered to pupils in Years 1 to 4 and local pools are used daily for lessons and squad training. We are very fortunate to be located between Clapham and Wandsworth Common and this allows us to provide access to open space for training sessions and Running Club. As a London prep school we make every effort to use the facilities in our area such as Tooting Athletics Track and Velodrome, Battersea Park and Barn Elms playing fields.

#### **d. Curriculum PE**

It is our aim at Thomas's Clapham to provide each and every pupil with a positive Physical Education learning experience within an environment where each individual feels comfortable and successful. We plan our curriculum to ensure that each child receives a well-structured, progressive programme of physical activity. Curriculum PE is led by the PE Subject Leader. Ideally, the successful applicant would have be qualified and/or experienced in teaching PE to the youngest children in our school.

An enthusiastic and motivated team committed to a policy of full inclusion deliver a P.E. programme where every child is taught by a P.E. specialist.

##### **i. Lower School**

- Games – one 40 min lesson per week
- Gymnastics /Athletics – one 40 min lesson per week
- Swimming – one 30 min lesson per week in Year 1 and 2

##### **ii. Middle School**

- Games – one mid-morning session of two periods (on/off site) and one afternoon session of four periods (on/off-site)
- Gymnastics/Dance/Athletics – one 40 min lesson per week
- Swimming – one 30 min lesson (Year 3 and 4 only in Form group)

##### **iii. Upper School**

- Games – one mid-morning session of two periods (on/off site) and one afternoon session of four periods (on/off-site)
- Gymnastics/HRF/Basketball/Athletics – one 40 min lesson per week

#### **e. Sport and games**

Pupils in Years 3 to 8 have a Games Session twice a week, one mid – morning (80mins) and one afternoon. Games are organised and practiced in year groups for both girls and boys.

Pupils have a full fixture list for their afternoon session and regularly compete at the weekend in a growing fixture programme, supported by a team of specialist coaches.

The children also have access to sport through an extensive extra-curricular clubs programme. This is designed to offer a broader range of sports to all and an opportunity for the teams selected, to have an additional practice.

#### **f. Fixtures – Boys and Girls Games**

Boys play football from September to late October, when rugby begins, continuing through until late February when they play either Hockey or Rugby Sevens. Cricket is the main team game in the summer. Again there is scope and opportunity to develop Tennis beyond the clubs activities.

Alongside this, there is a competitive cross-country and swimming fixture programme, and a commitment to biathlon at regional and national level. Athletics is very strong in the school. The Director of Sport oversees the strategy of the fixture programme for both boys and girls, and ensures the effective deployment of the staffing in many of these sports. She will work very closely with the successful applicant and the Head of Girls Games to ensure both a balanced and suitably challenging and varied programme, as well as the effective co-ordination and efficient use of resources ensures.

Girls play netball and hockey during the two winter terms, and cricket in the summer. They are equally involved in Swimming, Cross-country, Athletics, Tennis and every other aspects of the sports fixture programme. Dance is a vibrant area of the girls programme, and involves many boys, too.

The fixture programme increasingly reflects our commitment to co-education throughout the school, and should ensure that appropriate levels of competition are generated through it.

The PE Subject Leader and Head of Boys Games, and the Head of Girls Games, reports to the Director of Sport.



## **Job specification – Teacher of PE, and Girls Games**

The successful candidate will be a qualified PE teacher.

### **a. Accountable**

- To the Director of Sport

### **b. Responsible**

- For teaching PE and Girls Games across the school

### **c. Key areas of responsibility**

- To promote high quality teaching and learning of PE, and Girls Games.
- To be qualified and/or experienced in teaching PE to the youngest children in the school.
- To plan and provide a stimulating, invigorating and motivating learning environment ensuring that the learning resources are well organised and accessible to staff and pupils, embracing pupils work on paper, display and in the general atmosphere created in the classroom.
- To plan and resource interesting lessons that show infectious teaching, meeting all the needs of the pupils so that all groups make rapid progress.
- To use Assessment for Learning strategies within teaching.
- To use data and assessment information about pupils to track progress and set targets.

- To use Digital Technologies where appropriate to assist lesson preparation, teaching and reporting, and administration.
- To be aware of the new developments and advances in the teaching and direction of PE, and take an active interest in professional development.
- To write reports and advise at Parent/Teacher consultations as required, and communicate effectively to parents about the progress of their child within PE.
- To remain up to date in current curriculum development and professional practice by regular attendance at courses in consultation with the Deputy Head (Academic), the Assistant Head (Curriculum and Innovation), and the Director of Sport.
- To take part in collaborative decision making about issues relating to PE, and Girls Games through weekly departmental meetings.
- To write reports and reviews, and monitor and evaluate pupils' learning.
- To develop open, easy and professional relationships with parents and colleagues.
- To maintain and manage the physical resources in the learning area.
- To undertake supervisory duties, attend assemblies, and school lunch.
- To take part in the school's CPD and INSET programme, and fully participate in the Personal Performance Development programme, accepting that it will act as a vehicle for self-development.
- To attend staff meetings, School INSET, and attend professional courses to enhance teaching effectiveness and qualifications.

- To be fully involved with the games programme, coaching teams, and centrally involved with the midweek and weekend fixture programme.
- To take an active part in the clubs programme, leading our provision for Gymnastics.
- To play an active part in the programme of sports tours.
- To comply with Health and Safety requirements.
- To play a full part in the life of the School, *Celebration and Farewell* events, parent teacher meetings, and any other school occasions and events as required by the Headmaster.
- To support and contribute strongly to the corporate life of the school (eg contributing material to newsletters, the school newsletters, the web site, attending events etc).
- To ensure the best possible practice in aspects of PE and Games.

**d. Person specification**

- An outstanding PE teacher, and games teacher, with the flexibility to contribute to different areas of the games and clubs programme (including gymnastics).
- An excellent, inspirational and dynamic PE teacher and coach who can generate instant respect, and who is eager to strengthen PE and Sport at Thomas's Clapham as a prep school sector leader.
- An inspiring personality in and out of the classroom, and someone whose approach to teaching and learning is innovative and progressive, who makes learning fun, but who sets the highest standards, would enjoy working at Thomas's Clapham.

- A sense of humour, adaptability, the capacity to inspire confidence in pupils, parents and colleagues, and a real love of teaching the young is paramount. A can do, will do attitude will identify the successful candidate, and the rewards for a dynamic and enterprising teacher will be significant.

We would be delighted to welcome applications from colleagues currently working in the maintained sector. However, understanding our high expectations, a commitment to working very hard, and clear evidence that you are going to get fully involved in the life of this excellent school is paramount. You need not have worked in a prep school before, but you do need to understand and have empathy with the ethos and spirit of prep schools and independent education. You need to be in full sympathy with all that we are about.

### **Other areas of School life**

All teachers appointed to Thomas's Clapham are expected to contribute fully to the extra-curricular and pastoral life of the School.

***Pastoral care*** is a strong feature of life at the school, and all teachers are expected to share in this responsibility, probably as a Form Teacher or as a Tutor.

***The wider life of the school*** – The School expects its teachers to contribute whole-heartedly to other aspects of school life by drawing upon their own interests and enthusiasms. The richness of the school depends upon teachers who, for example, coach games, support and organise clubs and society meetings, or take children on trips and residential expeditions.

### **Salary and support**

A competitive salary and conditions are offered.

This post offers a very exciting opportunity to work in one of the outstanding prep schools in the country.

## Safeguarding and Child Protection

The successful candidate will be expected to commit to the following;

Thomas's London Day Schools is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring check.

### Applications

A brief letter of application, curriculum vitae and a completed and signed application form, should be addressed to the Headmaster, Philip Ward, as soon as possible.

The Headmaster would be delighted to talk on the phone to any candidate who would like to know more about the post. He can be contacted either at the School by phone (020 7326 9301) or by email – [pward@thomas-s.co.uk](mailto:pward@thomas-s.co.uk)

Details of the post and application forms are available from Mrs Viki Stanton on 020 7326 9300 or email [vstanton@thomas-s.co.uk](mailto:vstanton@thomas-s.co.uk).

Interviews will take place on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

The successful applicant will take up post in **September 2019**

PC Ward  
May 2019

*This role falls within the category of regulated activity, therefore you will be required to have an enhanced DBS check and a barred list check. Should you receive any cautions or convictions whilst in our employment these must be reported immediately to your line manager.*

*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 and work in accordance with our child protection policies and procedures.*

*The post holder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom he/she is responsible, or with whom he/she comes into contact will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's policies at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post, the post holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the school, he/she must report any concerns to the school's Safeguarding Officer or Deputy.*