

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

JOB DESCRIPTION



Appointment of Teacher of German from September 2019 *(One Year or Permanent Post)*





The School

Founded in 1432, Sevenoaks enjoys a global reputation as a centre of academic excellence and a flagship school for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. A co-educational day and boarding school, it offers a stimulating, intellectually demanding and balanced education for students from the age of 11 to 18.

Inspiring facilities, together with expert, enthusiastic and imaginative teaching, provide rich opportunities for students participating in lessons, and a wide variety of sports and the performing arts.

The school's international make-up and outlook promote the principles of tolerance and open-mindedness. About 350 students board in the seven boarding houses, and students originate from some 40 countries worldwide.

In 2013 the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) awarded Sevenoaks School the rare accolade of 'Exceptional' for its students' achievement. In the new style inspection in 2017 students' achievement and personal development were judged excellent, the highest grades. Sevenoaks was also the highest performing fully co-educational school, and the one with the largest cohort, in *The Sunday Times* Parent Power's top 50 fee-paying schools

for the IB in 2015. In 2017 we were, for the second time in 10 years, awarded *The Sunday Times* Independent School of the Year for 2018.

This excellence is achieved by bright, motivated students, inspired by highly qualified and dedicated teachers in well-resourced classrooms. The school has over 150 teaching staff, well supported by a large number of ancillary staff. A professional pastoral team of specialist tutors, boarding house staff and year heads give care and guidance, promoting student happiness. The mutual respect shared by students and staff generates a harmonious and purposeful atmosphere.

Every student is encouraged to be curious, creative, critically aware, and to develop his or her passion and talent to the full. Life is fast-paced and dynamic and expectations are high. At the same time, the school seeks to cultivate in its students the habit of reflecting on their learning, and on how they contribute to society more broadly. Ambitious and principled, confident and compassionate, our students are prepared for leadership and teamwork in the wider world.

Regular assemblies, tutor group meetings and a programme of talks develop our students' social and emotional understanding. A long tradition of voluntary service and local and international charity projects advance a core set of values throughout the School.



The Campus

The school is situated in the Kent market town of Sevenoaks, and has a prime position at the top of the High Street. The 100-acre site, which includes a number of listed buildings, is beautifully landscaped and adjoins the medieval deer park of Knole. London is only a 30-minute train journey away. Gatwick International Airport is also only 30 minutes away, and there are good transport links to other London airports and the Channel Tunnel.

The school's first-class resources and facilities include a superb sports centre (The Sennocke Centre) opened in 2005. A state-of-the-art performing arts centre (The Space), which provides four outstanding venues for music and drama, was opened in 2010. The Science & Technology Centre and a Sixth Form Global Study Centre opened in 2018, and a new boarding house should be ready for occupation by 2019.

Teaching at Sevenoaks School

We want all our students to enjoy their subjects, to be inspired by their teachers and to become independent, lifelong learners. We have an exceptionally lively, talented and committed staff body. Teachers are enthusiastic and well-qualified graduates. We welcome applications from experienced

teachers and newly-qualified teachers but can also provide training including PGCE for those new to the profession. All new staff undertake a comprehensive induction programme. Sevenoaks is committed to supporting its staff with training and professional development tailored to staff needs and interests.

Teachers at Sevenoaks are innovative and forward-thinking and over 60 staff are involved in the Institutes of Teaching & Learning, Higher Education & Professional Insight, and Service & Social Impact, shaping further development and initiatives for students and staff alike.

Curriculum

All of the 400-plus Sixth Form students pursue the International Baccalaureate Diploma, a programme the school has delivered for 40 years. The Diploma represents, in the school's view, the best preparation for university and for work in a world of global competition. Even more important, it genuinely develops a rich inner life in our students, opening their minds to connections and possibilities within and across the subject disciplines.

It is no surprise that our students leave Sevenoaks to study a wide range of courses in the UK and around the world. All 220 leaving students each year progress to the world's top universities, including up to 25% to Oxford and



Cambridge, and 25 or more students to leading US and international universities. They do so with an enlarged capacity for independent thought, intellectual risk-taking and strong appetite for learning which equips them with the skills and personal qualities conducive to a happy and successful life.

In order to support our ethos and aims, we have developed a number of Sevenoaks School Certificate courses, which students take instead of GCSEs, in English Literature, the Expressive Arts and Technology. The SSCs (which are externally moderated and recognised by UCAS) give teachers the independence and creative scope to shape a richly satisfying curriculum. In Years 7-11 all students take courses in critical thinking developed by the school.

The Languages Faculty

The Languages Faculty is large, energetic and ambitious. The Faculty includes major European languages, Mandarin Chinese and Additional Languages. The Heads of these languages work together as a team under the leadership of the Head of Faculty. A diverse range of modern languages is taught: French, German, Mandarin, Spanish and Russian are available to (I)GCSE, and comprise part of the IB Diploma programme, where Italian is also offered as a language option. There are

25 language teachers and a number of visiting language tutors who offer additional languages teaching to native speakers. There are also nine full-time language assistants for French, German, Russian, Spanish and Mandarin.

A modern departmental area was created in September 2000, with 15 classrooms, a language laboratory and a computer suite. All rooms are equipped with computer projectors.

From September 2015, all pupils joining the school in Year 7 take Latin plus one modern language from a choice of French and Spanish. In Year 8 a second modern language is offered from a choice of French, Mandarin, Spanish, Russian or German. A number of pupils choose to take up to four languages to (I) GCSE, two modern and two classical. All (I) GCSE examinations are completed in Year 11 except for bilingual pupils, who take their examinations in Year 10.

In the Sixth Form all students take the International Baccalaureate examinations at either Higher or Standard Level depending on their background; students' levels range from *Ab Initio* right up to native speaker standard. A language, modern or classical, is a core requirement within the programme, and the vast majority of our 440 Sixth Formers take a modern language at one of the three levels. Classical languages are thriving, too, and many students opt to study languages



at top universities. The presence of almost 200 students with international backgrounds enriches the student body and develops interest in other countries. There are regular university and Oxbridge successes, and several Sevenoaks modern language debating teams have enjoyed the status of national champions in recent years.

The Language departments run a series of exchanges or study trips in seven countries with several partner schools. In addition, a full-time Languages secretary and Exchange Co-ordinator helps with the administration of the department.

The German Department

The department comprises three teachers and one native language assistant, who plays a vital role in contributing to the emphasis on contemporary language and cultural awareness. German is available as a beginner's class in Year 8 and Year 9. The department has a strong track record of retaining pupils through to CIE German Foreign Language (I)GCSE. German is a popular subject in the Sixth Form, where it is available at both Higher and Standard level at both Language A (native speaker) and Language B (post-GCSE). There are several literature-based clubs available to native speakers, designed as a preparation for studying the IB A Literature course in the Sixth Form.

The German department runs several trips abroad, a highly popular Christmas Market Trip to Munich in Year 8, a study trip to Berlin with Y10, and a study tour to Vienna in Lower Sixth.

The Post

We seek to appoint an enthusiastic and able graduate to teach full-time from September 2019. The post could be for one year or permanent. Love of the subject and an ability to convey this to students is essential, and being a native speaker would be an advantage. The successful candidate will be willing and able to teach across the year groups and ability range. She or he will work well with a forward thinking and dynamic team. We welcome applications from teachers new to the profession as well as those with teaching experience. The opportunity to train for PGCE may be available. The German department and the Modern Languages Faculty offer a range of activities beyond the classroom, to which all members of the department are expected to contribute.

A commitment to excellent pastoral care and enriching co-curricular activities is also expected.

Information for applicants

Sevenoaks School has its own generous salary scale. Accommodation or relocation expenses may be available, and fee discounts for the



children of members of staff are available (subject to the usual entry requirements). Further information about the school can be obtained from the school's extensive website: <https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/home>, including more about working at Sevenoaks <https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/about-us/vacancies/working-at-sevenoaks>.

Applicants should complete the application form in full. Guidance for completion of the form is downloadable from our website. Note that Part 6 must show a complete history of employment, and should continue on a separate sheet of the application form if necessary. Please submit the completed application form, covering letter and CV by e-mail or post to:

The Human Resources Department
Sevenoaks School
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 1HU

Tel: 01732 467740;
email: pa@sevenoaksschool.org.

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible. It is envisaged that interviews will take place shortly.

The post holder has a responsibility to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young persons for whom he or she is responsible, or with whom he or she comes into contact, and will adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's Child Protection Policy Statement 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 or she must report any concerns to the school's Designated Child Protection Coordinator or to the Head.