

Teacher of Girls Physical Education (Maternity Cover) Information for Candidates

The School

Oakham is one of the UK's most forward thinking and innovative co-educational boarding and day schools. The school has 1060 students aged 10-18, half of them boarders, half day students. With equal numbers of boys and girls since 1989, the School offers a truly co-educational environment.

Whilst attracting students from all over the country and abroad, the School enjoys a close relationship with the town and the surrounding area. Two years ago, Oakham School became one of the sponsors of an academic Sixth Form Academy, Harington School.

Oakham's strength lies in providing a spectacularly wide range of opportunities and activities which sit alongside an invigorating and challenging academic curriculum. In the Upper School, students choose between A-levels, Pre-U and BTEC qualifications, or the IB Diploma.

In recent years, the school has made it a priority to develop independent learning through a series of learning habits, which are increasingly embedded across the curriculum, both inside and outside the classroom. The 'Oakham learning journey' begins in the Lower School (situated on the Jerwoods Site), where boys and girls are admitted through the School's own entrance exam at 11 (there is also a small entry at 10). Students also enter the school at 13+ through the Common Entrance (CE) examination and we have a further major entry point at 16+.

Over many years, the school has not only been incredibly successful academically, but it is also recognised nationally for its outstanding achievements in sport, music, drama and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The School is at an incredibly exciting point in its history and has a very ambitious development plan for the next five years, including a new facility for the Performing Arts. Last September, the School opened a new classroom block for Humanities. This year, the School opened a new state-of-the-art Faculty of Social Sciences and has just completed major redevelopment of the Sports Centre. Oakham School does not stand still.

The Department

Oakham is a co-educational boarding and day school with strong, recognised sporting traditions across a wide range of both individual and team games. Sport is a very important part in the lives of all pupils, including our 530 girls. This is evident in the significant programme of physical education for all but the most senior pupils, the extensive

opportunity for all in the middle and upper school to develop sporting interests that enhance leisure time, and the strong commitment to success in competitive school sport.

The Department of Sport and Physical Education is headed by the Director of Sport, assisted by the Assistant Director of Sport (Boys) and Assistant Director of Sport (Girls) and then supported by 14 other full or part time departmental staff.

PE has an important role in the school, reflected by it being a compulsory part of the curriculum in forms Lower 1 (year 6) to form 4. Up to form 3 pupils have a weekly double period and thereafter a single one. PE lessons are single sex at all ages and team teaching is common within each department. Currently, swimming is central to the programme in both the winter and spring terms, alongside an exciting and varied indoor programme. The outdoor sports of athletics and tennis are prevalent within the summer term PE curriculum.

The traditionally strong profile of the department has been further enhanced with the introduction and rapid growth of PE and Sport Studies at IGCSE AS/A2, BTEC and IB. The ability to contribute significantly to both the teaching and assessment requirements of this subject will be important.

The major games for girls are hockey in the winter term, netball in the spring, tennis and athletics in the summer. Oakham teams enjoy a nationally recognised reputation in such areas, with the year-round sports of swimming and squash enhancing this standing further. The successful applicant will be expected to play a significant role in the coaching of the major games programme across all terms, and to coach one or more to a high level. There may also be the opportunity for the right candidate to take on a position of responsibility but this is not essential.

Oakham teams are involved in an extensive programme of inter-school fixtures, and enjoy considerable success both within this programme and at regional and national level. Furthermore, a large number of pupils are selected for representative and pathway routes, with some progressing onto National selection. Staff commitment to the pupils' participation and success in representative sport, both on weekdays and Saturdays is important. Currently Oakham netball teams are county champions at U14, U16 and U19 with U14 and U19 qualifying for the national finals. Our girls hockey teams are county champions at U18, U16 and were runners up at U14. Our U19s have qualified for national finals. Our girl footballers were national champions two years ago.

Oakham is similarly proud of its outstanding facilities, including an indoor complex of sports hall, swimming pool, squash courts, fitness centre and weights room. The outdoor facilities for girls are also first-class, including two astroturfs for hockey and tennis (one floodlit), grass soccer and lacrosse pitches, and ten hard courts for both netball and tennis.

In summary, an exciting opportunity exists for a highly energetic and ambitious teacher to join a busy, progressive and very successful department. The successful applicant will be a graduate and encouraged to develop new ideas and interests. They will be expected to strive for high standards and be a good motivator of both individual pupils and teams. Every member of staff acts as a tutor to a small group and is expected to play a full part in the life of the school. Accommodation may be available as could a residential position within a boarding house.

The Position

We are seeking a full-time teacher of Physical Education (one year maternity cover) starting in September 2018. The successful candidate will be able to contribute to the girls PE programme, the academic programme and the games programme. Although this is a one year maternity cover this is a fantastic opportunity for a driven and ambitious teacher to work within one of the most successful sports departments in the country. Every opportunity will be made to provide professional development for the successful candidate.

Public Examination Results

Academic performance across the school is excellent. In the IB Diploma in 2016, students achieved a mean score of 37.2 points, with 97% of all Higher Level grades being 7, 6 or 5, and over a quarter scoring 40 or more points. At A-level, 17.5% of all examinations were graded A*, and 74% graded in the range A* to B. Overall, combining across all qualifications, results for the Upper School equate to around 82% A-level grades A*-B or equivalent.

At GCSE level, typically around 65% of all examinations are awarded A* or A; in 2016, over a quarter achieved straight A*s and As, with a third achieving five A*s or better.

Wider Curriculum

Oakham's total curriculum is particularly rich. The school has a strong reputation in the creative and performing arts. The Music Department has nearly 600 music lessons per week for students learning an instrument and there is a wide variety of orchestras, ensembles and groups, and over 270 children sing in the school choirs. At any one time there are some 45 music scholars in the school. Theatrical productions are frequent in the school's three venues for drama, including the professionally equipped Queen Elizabeth Theatre which is also used by the town and touring professional companies. The Richard Bull Centre houses a diversity of artistic enterprises from design technology to sculpture, textiles to jewellery. Scholarships are available in Art, Drama and Design & Technology. A whole range of societies and activities flourish, from 'dissection club' to chess and from the CCF to conservation.

Students are encouraged to be part of the wider life of the community and to see life beyond the East Midlands. This happens in a number of ways, through community service, through trips abroad, but most effectively through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Around 250 students participate in D of E activities every year and the school has a strong track record of success having achieved well over 5000 awards since first offering the scheme in 1960.

The richness and range of this activity is achieved within a full boarding environment operating seven days a week, with the term punctuated by weekend Leave Outs and Exeats (half term holidays). Term time can be intense, but rewarding: holidays are long. Members of staff are expected to involve themselves fully in the life of the school, helping with games and other activities outside the classroom. Special skills are welcomed but what matters most is a willingness to give time and energy generously.

The pastoral side of the school is well developed. All our students are members of one of the 16 houses, each with its own Housemaster or Housemistress, and every pupil has his or her own tutor. Tutors are responsible for a group of about a dozen students. All members of staff (including the Senior Leadership Team) have a specific pastoral role at Oakham.

Oakham is a Church of England foundation with an Anglican chaplain and a chapel which is in use every day. The school warmly welcomes those of other denominations. No-one is excluded from appointment on religious grounds but anyone intolerant of Christianity is unlikely to feel comfortable in the Oakham community.

Timetable

The school runs seven days a week during term time, with a total curriculum of pupil activity both within the formal timetable and beyond it. A full-time teacher is expected to teach twenty periods of 50 minutes per week, as well as fulfilling the tutorial and activity commitments.

Newly Qualified Teachers

The school is fully accredited to participate in the ISTip NQT Induction Programme in order to provide qualified teacher status (QTS) at the conclusion of a newly qualified teacher's first year at Oakham.

Applicants without formal teaching qualifications or experience

Applicants without formal teaching qualifications or experience will be considered for this position. Oakham School has a long record of training and developing teachers and many highly successful teachers started with no formal teaching qualifications. For applicants without a teaching qualification we are looking for: a high level of subject knowledge, enthusiasm, good communication skills, patience, an empathy with young people and a desire to get involved in the extra-curricular life of the school.

Salary and Professional Development

Oakham operates its own competitive salary structure, and the school is keen to recruit and retain high quality staff. There is a generous professional development budget, and staff are encouraged to undertake research and training that will both develop them and enhance the school's educational provision.

Inspection Reports

Oakham School has recently undergone a very successful ISI Inspection (September 2013). The inspection report can be viewed [here](#).

Application and Interviews

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to spend a day at the school and to meet the Headmaster and Deputy Head (Academic), as well as members of the Sports Department and other colleagues from the school. Candidates will be asked to teach a lesson as part of the selection process and further details will be forthcoming should you be shortlisted. Candidates who wish to apply for this post should send their completed application form, covering letter stating where they saw the advertisement and CV giving details of two referees, to:

Mr Nigel Lashbrook, Headmaster
Oakham School
Chapel Close
Oakham
Rutland, LE15 6DT

or via email to Jackie Pridmore, School Administrator, jp2@oakham.rutland.sch.uk.

Initial enquiries should be directed to 01572 758506.

The closing date for applications is Thursday 22 February (09.00).

Under current legislation, we are required to advise applicants that this appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure. Oakham School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service. Details of any criminal record (spent or unspent, due to exemption from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974) must be disclosed at interview. Only relevant convictions and other information will be taken into account so disclosure need not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position at Oakham School. A copy of the Recruitment of Ex-offenders Policy is enclosed. For further details, please visit the Disclosure & Barring website.