

TEACHER OF CLASSICS

September 2018

Whitgift is one of Britain's leading independent day and boarding schools for boys aged between 10 and 18 years with approximately 1460 pupils and 106 boarding or flexi-boarding pupils. The School, which was founded in 1596 by Elizabeth I's last Archbishop of Canterbury, John Whitgift, is one of the oldest in Croydon and enjoys facilities of outstanding quality, amongst the best available nationally. It is set in an attractive 48 acre parkland site in South Croydon with excellent links to London, Surrey and the south coast.

The Vacancy

The Department is very busy and expectations within the School are high. The successful candidate must be someone who is confident, proactive and reflective about their teaching, has excellent communication skills, is capable of contributing positively within a team and is committed to raising attainment through excellent teaching and learning.

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and dedicated graduate with excellent subject knowledge and high expectations of attainment and behaviour. The ideal candidate will have an obvious passion for Classics, with an ability to enthuse all ages equally, from Year 7s new to Latin up to Year 13s preparing for their final Latin, Greek, or Classical Civilisation exams. A commitment to maintaining the high standards of the department would be expected, and there is excellent scope for an inspirational teacher to develop and apply their skills and knowledge at all levels. Involvement in the wider activities of the department would be expected, and the ability to teach Greek would be highly advantageous.

The position is suitable for someone who is new to teaching and looking to challenge themselves academically, newly qualified teachers or for a more experienced candidate who has the skills to enrich this already successful department. The ability to work as a team is essential and candidates will also need to have good IT skills.

A proactive culture of supporting and developing talented and inspiring teachers is supported by the Senior Management Team. Training and development includes:

- regular in-house training for all teaching staff
- NQT induction programme for unqualified teachers
- School Direct programme to support those new to the profession.

As a Boarding School, stimulating opportunities may be available for the right candidate to contribute to the pastoral care of students as a Boarding Tutor, both resident and non-resident along with a wide range of co-curricular activities.

The position reports to the Head of Classics.

The Classics Department

Latin, Greek and Classical Civilisation are taught throughout the School from year 7 to year 13 (plus Ancient History in year 6) by a dynamic, progressive, and friendly team of five full-time specialists, who are supported by colleagues from other departments according to our staffing needs. The department sits under the aegis of the Languages Faculty, which is one of the largest and most vibrant of its sort in the UK.

The Classics department offers a wide range of attractive courses to suit the ability and interests of all pupils. Department resources are shared and available for communal use on our internal network with plenty of material to supplement the grammatical and paralinguistic framework offered by the *Cambridge Latin Course*, our textbook of choice. The successful candidate would be expected to contribute to this corpus and bring exciting and stimulating new ideas to the department. We are ever keen to broaden the appeal of the subject amongst the student body and so it is hoped the right candidate might bring ideas for initiatives to raise the department profile and expand the academic horizons of our students.

Two classrooms are used mainly for Classics teaching as well as the beautiful Classical Sixth Room, which houses a comprehensive departmental library. A variety of resources and ICT equipment are available for use including data projectors in every classroom. Classroom sets of iPads are available, and are excellent for use of the CLC website and other complementary software.

Curriculum

Latin

Before entering Year 7, boys may opt for Latin and approximately 90-110 usually do so, taking the *Cambridge Classics Course* as the main textbook until the GCSE examination in the Fifth Form. In Year 11, with the CLC completed, we use John Taylor's *Essential GCSE Latin*. A good number of students usually continue their study of Latin into the Sixth Form (with both A Level and IB on offer) using the Scottish Classics Group's *The Latin Language*, supplemented by John Taylor's *Latin Beyond GCSE*. Prose Composition is taught throughout (using Colebourn) as the preferred option for the exam, though this does depend on each individual student's ability and confidence.

Greek

Historically, about twenty boys each year have opted to start a three-year GCSE Greek course in Year 9, using John Taylor's *Greek to GCSE* as their textbook. Last year saw a marked increase in this number with almost forty opting for the subject; this expansion of Greek is just one exciting area in which the new appointment could take a leading role. A handful of students opt to continue with Greek into the Sixth Form, where John Taylor's *Greek Beyond GCSE* is used, and here too the successful candidate could be instrumental in bolstering this number.

Classical Civilisation

Classical Civilisation, following the OCR syllabus, is offered in the Sixth Form and a healthy number of students, including many who have not previously studied an ancient language, usually take up this opportunity. There is a variety of modules available for teaching, including the epic poetry of Homer and Virgil, Ancient Art and Architecture, the Persian Wars, Athenian Democracy, Greek Tragedy and Roman Comedy. Department teachers are at liberty, and indeed encouraged, to choose the modules which best suit their strengths and interests.

Academic Results

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| A level Latin/Greek/Classical Civilisation overall | A*- B: 83% |
| GCSE Latin/Greek/ overall | A*- A: 100% |

In recent years, many of our students have gone on to read Classics at universities, including Oxford or Cambridge. Additionally, several students, often those who have studied Classical Civilisation, have gone on to read related subjects including Ancient History, Archaeology and Anthropology, and Egyptology.

Co-Curricular Activities

We have a programme of internal co-curricular activities including the student-led Senior Classics Club, the ever popular Junior Classics Club and assorted reading competitions and extended projects; the successful candidate would be expected to contribute in this area.

Popular biennial trips to Greece or Italy supplement the department's work (our most recent trip to Greece in October 2016 was a tremendous success), as do annual domestic trips to Roman sites (e.g. Bath, Bignor, Fishbourne). Additionally we run museum trips for various year groups to places such as the Cast Gallery in Cambridge and the British Museum in London, we attend lecture conferences with our sixth formers, and we run an annual trip to Verulamium for our Year 6 intake by way of an introduction to Classics.



Contact

Please feel free to contact Mr Miles Thompson, Head of Classics, on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail mct@whitgift.co.uk if you have questions regarding the vacancy or would like to know more.



Conditions of Service

The salary will be on the Whitgift Foundation scale (substantially above national scale) according to qualifications and experience. Accommodation may be available. Assistance is offered towards removal expenses etc., up to £1,000 in total.

Staff are required to make a significant contribution to the co-curricular life of the School and this is reflected in the salary offered. A strong commitment to the pastoral and house system is also anticipated.

We offer a generous salary and benefits package including membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme(including Life Assurance cover), Employee Discount Club , discount on school fees for the Foundation Schools (permanent posts only), staff discount on off-peak membership at our on-site gym (Nuffield Health), membership of a healthcare plan, a range of family-friendly benefits and season ticket loan.

We welcome applications from all parts of our community as we aspire to attract staff that matches the social and cultural diversity of our student intake.

For further information and an online application form, please visit www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies. For any general queries, please telephone the School Human Resources Department on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail SchoolHR@whitgift.co.uk.

Applications will be reviewed on a daily basis and interviews may occur at any stage after applications are received so we invite interested candidates to apply as soon as possible.

As a result of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, employers now have to verify that new recruits who are not British Nationals are eligible to work in this country. Therefore any applicant who is offered an interview will be asked to provide official documentation to verify their ID, address and right to work in the UK. It is also normal practice for the School to ask for original qualifications and professional membership documents as detailed on their application.

Whitgift School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service

January 2018