

BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Information for Applicants for the post of
Head of English
September 2019

March 2019

Dear Colleague

Thank you for your interest in our school. We will have a vacancy for the post of Head of English for September 2019 and having read the details of the post we hope you will wish to apply.

Bournemouth School for Girls is a selective girls' grammar school with over 1100 pupils, including 300 in the Sixth Form. At our most recent OFSTED inspection we were identified as 'outstanding'. In the latest Sunday Times Parent Power survey our school is rated 68th in the country. We are also a forward looking school – we are a member of the South West Academic Trust, a group of grammar schools in the region working together with Exeter University.



The Department

The English Department currently consists of 9 members of staff. The Head of Department is supported by a Deputy Head of Department.



The members of the English Department have between them a great deal of knowledge and experience, and it has been their willingness to share this expertise with one another that has been a significant factor in fostering the positive and collegial style of working we currently enjoy. Traditionally, all members of the Department have taken a full part in the decision making process and the formulation of departmental policies.



Teachers follow agreed programmes of study. However, these are adapted to suit the needs of different groups of pupils. Choices of texts at KS3, GCSE and A Level are made by class teachers.

Beyond the classroom we offer our students a wide range of opportunities including theatre trips, visiting speakers, writing competitions, World Book Day activities, quizzes and a Sixth Form extension group. Our Sixth Form English students run lunchtime activities for younger pupils such as creative writing and debating.

Debating and public speaking are real strengths of the school and girls regularly compete in school, local and national competitions run by Rotary and the English Speaking Union.

The School Library plays an active part in supporting the work of the department and encouraging a love of reading amongst all our pupils. The Library has over 28,000 items and good IT facilities for research. It organises reading groups and clubs including one for the Carnegie Book Shadowing Award.

The English Department is well resourced. All classrooms have interactive whiteboards and we have a trolley of wireless laptops for English to further enhance our access to central IT facilities.



The Post

We are looking for a new Head of English to join our school with effect from September 2019. This will provide an exciting and challenging opportunity to build upon the existing high standards of English teaching. The post arises due to the stepping down of the current post holder for family reasons.

The post will attract a 1.2 TLR allowance (currently £9,663).



We believe the following qualities are essential in the successful applicant:

- an excellent classroom teacher;
- the ability to gain trust and respect of school staff, pupils and parents;
- experience of teaching from lower school to Sixth Form level;
- outstanding subject knowledge with an ability to share this with pupils in an exciting and academically rigorous way;
- the ability to teach English Language as well as Literature at A level will be an advantage;
- excellent leadership and management skills with an ability to take staff with you;
- evidence of recent relevant professional development;
- outstanding communication skills, both orally and written;
- well organised and totally reliable;
- good knowledge of current issues relating to Teaching and Learning;
- ability to work under pressure;
- loyalty and commitment to the team;
- flexible in approach and able to see the big picture;
- enthusiastic and able to bring new ideas to the school and department;
- a real commitment to developing literacy and oracy across the curriculum;
- an awareness of current developments in English teaching.

Curriculum/Syllabus

At GCSE we currently use AQA. For A level Literature we follow the OCR syllabus and for Language we follow Eduqas. There are currently 5 groups studying English Literature at A level and 2 studying English Language.

Examination Results

The English Department is proud of its consistently high level of achievements in public examinations. This year we had a 100% 4-9 pass rate both in GCSE English Language and English Literature. More impressively 7-9 rates were 65% and 95% respectively. At A level we had a 100% pass rate with 73% gaining A*-B English Literature and 88% gaining A*-B in English Language. The Department also enjoys a fine tradition of 'Oxbridge' success.



Application Process

We look forward to receiving your application by 9am on Wednesday 24th April.



This should include:

- **a completed application form**
- **a letter of application outlining your readiness for the role of Head of English at our school. We are particularly interested to hear about any initiatives you have been involved in, assessing your contribution and its impact.**

We hope to hold interviews w/b Monday 29th April.

Bournemouth School for Girls is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure check by the Disclosure & Barring Service.

Please do also look at our website, our OFSTED report and the additional information for candidates to get a flavour of our school. The post of Head of English is a key one and I am keen to hear from you if you believe you have the qualities and experience necessary. I believe that BSG is a very good place to work and I look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely

Alistair Brien
Headteacher



