



WATFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Acting Headmistress: Miss Sylvia Tai BA (Hons)

INFORMATION PACK FOR APPLICANTS

Teacher of Chemistry

Location: Watford

Teacher Closing Date: noon 2nd February Interview Date: Wednesday 7th February

Thank you for requesting details of the above post. We are pleased to enclose the following information:

Application form*
Person Specification
Job Description
Child Protection Policy
Safer Recruitment Policy

*Available on website if you have requested an electronic information pack. This form includes an Equal Opportunities Monitoring Sheet which will be separated from your application form on receipt.

You are welcome to send a copy of your cv however it must be accompanied by a fully completed and signed application form. A cv alone will not be considered. The form can be completed and returned electronically however if this is the case it will need to be signed in person where the applicant is called for interview.

Applicants who are not called for interview will not be informed that they have been unsuccessful. If you have not heard within 2 working days of the closing date you may presume that you have not been shortlisted.

Applicants invited for interview will be required to bring with them original copies of teaching or other relevant qualifications for verification, as well as documentation to comply with the provisions of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. Details of documents required will be specified in letters to those called for interview.

Shortlisting will be based on the job and person specifications attached to this letter. If you are selected for interview, you will be invited to make a visit to the school to view the facilities and ask general questions. All this will normally take place on the same day as the interview, however if you have queries regarding details of the role prior to your application you may contact the Joint Heads of Chemistry, Dr Liz Simister or Mr Simon Burns on e.simister@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk or mr.burns@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk respectively.

Contact details for Return of Completed Application forms and other enquiries:

Susan Granville
Executive Assistant to Headmistress/HR Manager
Pa2head@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk
01923 223403 extension 202

WATFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION – CHEMISTRY

The Chemistry Department is a very successful and highly motivated department in our School. There are currently seven specialist Chemistry teachers in the department who contribute to the teaching of Key Stage 3 Science and Chemistry at GCSE and A Level, as well as two dedicated Chemistry technicians. The staff are passionate about their subject and have developed a Chemistry curriculum that is exciting and stimulating but with a focus on academic rigor. The Chemistry staff work very closely as a team – producing shared resources and teaching notes for all topics across every Key Stage. We aim to support one another and encourage good teaching practice, but also expect initiative and the ability to think independently. As a large department with an excellent standard of teaching, commitment to the subject, determination, and an enthusiastic approach to teaching are essential.

Science is taught by one teacher in mixed ability groups in years 7 and 8, who follow a modified Key Stage 3 programme of study.

All students begin GCSE courses in Year 9 and the three Sciences are taught separately by subject specialists. We are following the Edexcel (9-1) GCSE course for separate qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and Combined Science.

A significant number of students choose to study Chemistry in the Sixth Form; the students follow the Edexcel specification for A Level. There are five groups in Year 12, each group is taught for 8 periods per week, and five groups in Year 13, each group is taught for 9 periods per week. Each A level group is taught by two members of staff.

Results for Chemistry GCSE and A-Level are outstanding with 100% gaining A*-C at GCSE and 84% A*-C at A-Level in 2017.

Extra-curricular activities are of great importance within Chemistry. Staff and students in the department participate in the Junior Science Club and the CREST award scheme. Sixth Form students have the opportunity to participate in a range of clubs and can do the Chemistry Olympiad.

There are four well equipped Chemistry laboratories. Each has white boards and digital projectors. A recently built Geodesic Dome is also available for extracurricular activities and can be used for teaching smaller groups. The department is fortunate in having a wide range of specialist equipment available for use, and a large library of other resources.

The Chemistry department is part of a large and thriving Science department which is staffed by 20 specialist teachers and 5 technicians. There are 14 laboratories, all recently refurbished and well equipped to deliver the Science curriculum across all key stages. The department works together as a close-knit team and each member of staff contributes to the teaching, developing the curriculum and participating in extra-curricular clubs and activities across all age groups.

The departments of Biology, Chemistry and Physics are each managed by a Head of Department who reports to the Head of Science. The Heads of Science team works very closely together to ensure the smooth running of this exceptionally successful department.

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PERSON SPECIFICATION Teacher of Chemistry

- An outstanding classroom teacher with the ability to teach Chemistry to all Key Stages.
- A passion for Chemistry and a good honours degree in their subject area.
- An ability to teach Chemistry at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A level.
- An ability to teach Biology and Physics to Key Stage 3.
- An ability to teach Biology or Physics to GCSE would be an advantage but not essential.
- Articulate and accurate communication.
- A commitment to raising achievement and providing challenge in the classroom.
- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Willingness to take a full part in extended-curricular activities, including day trips.
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
- In sympathy with the aims of the school.
- IT skills and experience of using ICT in teaching.
- Enthusiasm, energy and initiative.
- Please note that since November 2016 it has been a statutory requirement that all public sector workers in customer facing roles must be able to speak English fluently and you will be expected to demonstrate at interview and in the classroom the ability to converse at ease and at an appropriate level in accurate English with pupils, parents, and visitors to the school.