

TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY JANUARY 2022

Whitgift is one of Britain's leading independent day and boarding schools for boys aged between 10 and 18 years with approximately 1500 pupils and over one hundred 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 who possesses a genuine passion for Geography alongside a capacity to share this effectively with pupils of all ages. 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 also be expected.



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.

The successful applicant will contribute fully to the department by working co-operatively and sharing their knowledge, ideas and methods. This role offers excellent scope and resources for an enthusiastic teacher to develop and apply his/her skills and knowledge at all levels. A commitment to the School's pastoral system and wide range of co-curricular activities is also required.

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's Direct programme to support those new to the profession.

The position reports to the Head of Geography.

The Geography Department

Geography is taught by a team of enthusiastic, well-qualified and experienced teachers (six full-time and one part-time). The team's passion for Geography is evident in the breadth of topics covered across the age ranges and the continual development and sharing of innovative schemes of work. All members contribute significantly to curriculum enhancement through field trips, departmental societies and other means.

The department occupies its own complement of rooms; a departmental office, an IT resource suite and four classrooms (all with wireless laptop connections and projectors). It is well resourced with books, map extracts, videos, DVDs and extensive fieldwork equipment. A healthy budget allows external workshops and trips to geographical lectures across London.

Curriculum

Geography is a compulsory part of the curriculum until the end of Year 9. In the Lower School, the department has its own syllabus, which aims to introduce students to a wide range of physical and human geographical concepts. The department also now oversees the Lower school's new Citizenship curriculum.

Beyond Year 9, Geography is a popular option at GCSE (over 200 candidates across Year 10 & 11) and A Level (over 50 candidates). Boys follow the Edexcel A at GCSE and the Edexcel specification at A Level. As an alternative to the A Level course, both the Higher and Standard Level International Baccalaureate are offered.



Fieldwork forms an important part of our teaching. All A Level students attend a four-day residential field course in Swanage. The Lower Sixth IB is taken on a residential trip to Northern France and Belgium. A senior enrichment trip is offered each year to Year 10 students, to locations such as Iceland, the Azores and Sicily. Enrichment trips are also offered to Year 8 & 9 to Dorset and Kew Gardens. Additional day outings are organised for the completion of GCSE fieldwork on the Sussex Coast and central London.

Academic Results

Geography is a leading department within the School and has enjoyed excellent examination results in recent years.

		2021	2020	2019
GCSE	A* - A or 9 - 7	91%	77%	70%
A Level	A* - B	100%	100%	100%
IB (Higher Level)	7-5	100%	100%	100%

Boarding

Our superbly equipped boarding facilities are ideally placed within the spacious grounds of Haling Park. A large proportion of boarders come from various parts of the United Kingdom, and some from 20 other countries across the world. 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 residential and non-residential along with a wide range of co-curricular activities which include outstanding sport and music programmes. Shortlisted applicants will be able to express their interest at interview.

Teaching and Learning through Digital Strategy



We believe that technology is becoming ever more widely used in society. As part of a wide-reaching Digital Strategy, we have identified several areas where we think technology can be of benefit to Learning and Teaching at Whitgift School. The aim is to allow users to access a broader range of resources and information that can be significantly more efficient than research through traditional methods.

With this in mind, we have begun a rollout of laptop devices initially to all of our first form students. The laptops may be used to access eBooks or more up-to-date resources as well as enabling collaborative work with different pupils contributing to one finished piece. As part of our Junior Years Curriculum (from Lower First to Second Form), we aim to challenge pupils with serious academic rigour, preparing them for success at GCSE and beyond, while enthusing them with a love of learning, intellectual curiosity about the wider world and the skills to be independent thinkers and learners. We have now introduced Global Citizenship as a taught subject. Last term the Lower First were introduced to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and they have been learning about climate change, poverty and food security, and plastics in the ocean.

Community Engagement

The John Whitgift Foundation has a strong ethos of giving back to the local community. As part of this, we are proud to promote these values and this filters through all aspects of the School.

Whitgift pupils and staff are already active in in this area, particularly through our links with primary schools, and we are committed to increasing this involvement in the coming years. There will be exciting opportunities for staff to be involved in activities which both enhance the development of Whitgift pupils and support the needs of others in the local area. Opportunities will become available in the Whitgift Community Summer School, Primary Academic Masterclasses, Primary Project and/or other activities of this type as the programme develops.

Second Formers also have timetabled lessons on 'Ignite', through which they are being taught about Global Citizenship and independent project skills.

Contact

Please feel free to contact Mr Nick Croker, Head of Geography via e-mail at NJC@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), 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.

Applications will be reviewed daily 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.

September 2021