



James Allen's Girls' School 4–18

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CANDIDATE PACK FOR TEACHER OF PHILOSOPHY

James Allen's Girls' School 144 East Dulwich Grove London SE22 8TE

www.jags.org.uk



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JAMES ALLEN'S GIRLS' SCHOOL

JAGS has been inspiring and educating pupils for over 270 years. It is the oldest girls' independent school in London. While we are proud of our history – it's made us who we are – we are very much a school of the present and the future. We celebrate the best of the old while embracing the latest innovations and technology.

Our day school pupils are drawn from a dynamic variety of cultural, social and economic backgrounds, with 50 languages spoken at home. We currently have 126 pupils on our own bursaries, with 51 of them on free places and an average of 89% fee subsidy paid. Diversity is our strength, but we share a common purpose: to help all our pupils fulfil their potential. We know we are lucky and that we gain from sharing what we have. 'Good Neighbours' has been our policy for many years. We look outwards and draw people in. We are part of the world around us.



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JAMES ALLEN'S GIRLS' SCHOOL

In a changing educational world, my core values remain intact. As an Oxford graduate, and student of literature, I want pupils to love learning for its own sake and to strive for excellence.

But true education always comes back to people. To supporting the young on individual journeys so they are ready to lead purposeful, happy adult lives. As soon as I set foot in JAGS, I knew that this was at the heart of the school's ethos too. Known for its academic excellence, JAGS is so much more. It is a school with heart and conscience and one which reaches out beyond its own community.

I also believe firmly that schools have responsibility for the whole person. Sport, arts and leadership are part of that - but the less measurable qualities of social responsibility and empathy are just as important.



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WORKING AT JAGS

Working at JAGS is more than just about working. JAGS is a community and a family that strives to create a warm and supportive environment for both the girls that come to learn here, but also for the staff that come to work here.

From your first day at JAGS you will have access to some of the best facilities in the country and will be encouraged to take part in the many activities here.

JAGS works hard to attract the best staff and therefore the benefit package at JAGS is very generous. We have our own pay scale which is above the national average and we also offer all staff a discount on school fees. You will have access to our multi purpose sports centre which includes tennis courts, a 25m swimming pool, spin studio and a rock climbing centre. You will receive free lunches as well as free parking and free access to the Dulwich Picture Gallery.

Working at JAGS is a great opportunity for anyone, whether a teacher, a gardener or an IT technician and we work with all our staff to offer development opportunities wherever possible.



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TEACHER OF PHILOSOPHY (MATERNITY COVER)

As a teacher of Philosophy the post holder will be an outstanding classroom practitioner with excellent subject knowledge and a real passion for the subject. They should have knowledge and understanding of effective teaching and learning styles and of monitoring assessment, recording and reporting of pupils' progress.



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PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

- A good degree (undergraduate or higher) in Philosophy or related subject (e.g. PPE), preferably with PGCE.
- The ability to create a happy, challenging and effective learning environment in lessons.
- Enthusiasm and approachability.
- Awareness of the statutory requirements concerning Equal Opportunities, LDD & SEND, Child Protection is essential.
- Effective use of strategies to monitor pupils' motivation and morale.
- The ability to promote the school's aims positively.
- The capacity to develop good personal relationships within a team.
- ICT literacy.
- Empathy and patience are important personal characteristics, as are a committed, well organized, and resourceful approach and an ability to meet deadlines.

Desirable

- Proven experience of teaching Philosophy at Pre-U (or A-level), particularly to academically able students.
- A commitment to further professional development.
- Evidence of enthusiasm for developing their subject knowledge, for example via post-graduate study or independent research.



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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Philosophy Department provides courses in the Sixth Form leading to the Cambridge Pre-U in *Philosophy and Theology*. We also aim to inspire an interest in philosophical issues in pupils throughout the school through activities and clubs, and to assist those in the Sixth Form applying for Philosophy at university whether or not they have taken the subject at AS/A level.

In the A-level courses we aim to enable pupils to:

- gain knowledge and understanding of Philosophy through consideration of some important philosophical issues and approaches to problems;
- develop a rigorous approach, both critical and constructive, to the study of Philosophy and the nature of argument;
- develop a set of transferable intellectual skills – including comprehension, interpretation, analysis and evaluation – which will facilitate the development of independent thinking, based on critical examination of evidence and rational argumentation, and which will be applicable in the study of other academic subjects and in reflection on other important aspects of human experience;

Practise and enhance their abilities to construct, develop and maintain clear and coherent argument.

THE SUBJECT IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Philosophy is offered in the sixth form following a 'Philosophy only' route through the Cambridge Pre-U *Philosophy and Theology*; we have a comparatively large Year 12 contingent and one student in Year 13 who will be the first in the school to take this exam. 8 periods per week is the normal allocation of teaching time for this subject, usually arranged in four double periods, split equally between two different teachers; in larger groups this rises to 9 periods/week in Year 13. No prior knowledge of the subject is required to take this course. The course is examined by written papers in the summer term at the end of the second year.

In addition, girls in KS3 and KS4 have the opportunity to attend informal lunchtime Philosophy Discussion Groups led by a member of staff; philosophy sessions are also included in the after school extension classes for Years 8 & 9, and in the Year 7 Carousel.

Philosophy taster lessons are provided for Year 10 students as part of their sixth-form taster programme during the summer term.

Oxbridge philosophy taster lessons can be arranged on an *ad hoc* basis for students considering applying for PPE, PPL, Physics and Philosophy, Classics, etc. if the students have not studied philosophy before.



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