



SEDBERGH  
SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1525

## Appointment of Head of Cricket

SEPTEMBER 2023 OR JANUARY 2024



# INTRODUCTION

Sedbergh School seeks to appoint a new Head of Cricket, with effect from September 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter. The successful candidate will work within one of the country's leading Sports Departments: they will have direct responsibility for all aspects of Cricket and Cricket coaching throughout the school – for boys and girls. Cricket at Sedbergh is a vibrant part of the school culture, and a visionary leader is required to maintain and develop the momentum of recent years. Dramatic progress has been made in the last 10 years under the dynamic leadership of the current incumbent, Martin Speight. There is a sound foundation for the next phase of development; Sedbergh is ambitious for the future of Cricket, and seeks to enhance its current position as one of the country's premier schools in this sport. This is a rare opportunity for a dedicated enthusiast to make a substantial impact at a national level.



Sedbergh School is uniquely situated in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It enjoys a spectacular location at the foot of the Howgill Fells. It is a community of 580 pupils (age 13–18) and 480 staff. Its prep school (Years R-8) of 200 pupils is situated 15 minutes away at Casterton. The School is a vibrant, demanding and supportive community which encourages pupils and staff to be involved in as broad a range of activities and interests as possible.

Sedbergh is a full boarding school. It currently has the highest pupil roll in its 500 year history, and demand for places remains buoyant. Pupils are members of one of the nine houses, all of which have their own buildings, dedicated dining rooms, social spaces and gym. All staff contribute to the wider pastoral life of the School.

At the most recent inspection, the School was graded 'Excellent' in every category of provision by ISI; pupils' personal awareness and the provision of extra-curricular opportunities were identified as particular strengths.



## SPORT AT SEDBERGH

Sport has always been an important part of life at Sedbergh School. All pupils take part in physical activity on at least four afternoons every week, in addition to an extensive programme of competition, predominantly on Saturdays. There is an additional framework of individual support for outstanding athletes who aspire to become elite performers. This takes place within and beyond the timetable, with one-to-one coaching for promising pupils common in most sports, along with an extensive conditioning programme. The School works closely with academies of professional clubs to provide opportunities for the best players to stretch themselves, and to achieve international honours. The list of current and former pupils who have played for their country is extensive. Sedbergh competes at the top level in a wide range of sports, regularly appearing in – and winning – national finals. Its reputation for strong sports performance is worldwide.

Sedbergh sport is, however, about much more than high performance. There is a wide programme of activities, available to all pupils and free choice from the point of entry. The strength of the culture means that compulsion has never been necessary; pupils play because they want to and because the experience is good. Enthusiastic participation, regardless of ability or activity, is central to the spirit of the School. An unusually large number of girls and boys choose to participate in traditional team games at a variety of levels: Cricket is no exception. There are multiple teams in all age groups, allowing for all who wish to play in school teams. For those who prefer alternatives, the range is wide.



Individual activities are strong, with Running especially popular. Swimming, Basketball, Badminton, Squash and Fives have high quality programmes, run by dedicated coaches within outstanding facilities. The School makes good use of its unique location, and activities such as sailing, canoeing, mountain biking and shooting are enjoyed by pupils of all ages.

Equally important are the standards that surround Sedbergh sport. Pupils are encouraged to demonstrate commitment, loyalty, selflessness and teamship. High standards of discipline, appearance, punctuality and sportsmanship are strongly encouraged; visiting teams are warmly welcomed and hospitality is a valued part of the sporting culture. Pupils respond positively to high expectations: senior boys and girls are encouraged to be role models to juniors. Parental support for sport is extremely strong.





## RESOURCES FOR SPORT

Facilities for sport are outstanding. The recently opened Hirst Centre provides a double sized sports hall with sprung floor. It is an ideal environment for Netball, and features a show court with bleacher seating for 200. It also has a state of the art fitness gym and a hospitality suite that overlooks the courts and the playing fields. There is an additional sports hall, free weights gym, 25m swimming pool, courts for Squash, Fives and Tennis, all weather athletics facility and extensive, top quality playing fields. The summer of 2023 will see the completion of a new double, floodlit astroturf Hockey pitch, in addition to the existing facility. A further pitch is available on Saturdays at nearby Sedbergh Prep School, giving access to four pitches for weekend Hockey matches.

Extensive use is made of nearby Sedbergh Golf Club and the Penrith Golf Hub. First Class Cricket is played on the Sedbergh ground, and the senior England Netball squad recently based a week long training camp at the School. There is dedicated sports



medical support, including regular access to physiotherapists. Matchdays have a pitchside doctor who leads the injury support team.

Extensive use is made of performance analysis, on an individual and team level. State of the art recording and projection equipment is available, and the school has its own analysis suite to support this. Strength and conditioning programmes are equally extensive, with specialist coaching and equipment of international calibre. Many high performing pupils are very committed to their personal programmes. Others pursue their own fitness goals within and beyond formal games time.

PE is a very popular exam subject, with two sets each year at A Level, four sets at GCSE in each year group and a thriving BTEC course. Academic PE is run by the Head of PE, assisted by 8 other PE teachers. Results are consistently outstanding. There is a specialist PE teaching facility in a separate block, with dedicated classrooms and resources.

A significant number of staff contribute to games coaching. There is a large, specialist staff of PE teachers and full time Sports Coaches. Many have played and coached at the highest level: all contribute widely to team coaching and support the distinctive ethos. Classroom teachers – male and female – are heavily involved in coaching and team management.



## CRICKET AT SEDBERGH



Cricket has, historically, been the principal game of the summer term. It has been played at the school for over 150 years. Sedbergh has defied the recent trend towards decline in school Cricket and the game continues to thrive at all levels, with 240 pupils (40% of the school) currently choosing to play – in 12 regular teams. . Boys and girls take part enthusiastically, and commit themselves to extensive practice and competition.

The health of the game is reflected in the large number of Sixth Formers who take part in meaningful, long form Cricket every weekend. To facilitate this, the boys' 2nd and 3rd XIs play in the Westmorland Cricket League, with a full programme of 45 over matches against men's teams every Saturday. The 1st XI plays a combination of schools and Academy teams, including those of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Durham. The season ends

with the BOWS Festival (with Brighton, Oakham and Wellington), which the Sedbergh XI has won for the last three years. Saturday matches follow a 50 over format, though the school has also enjoyed considerable success in shorter formats. Sedbergh boys' teams, at senior and Under 15 levels, have been national finalists at T20 13 times in the last ten years. They have also been regular participants in the Gary Sobers Trophy in Barbados.

For aspiring Cricketers, the game continues year round. An extensive programme of practice is available to all who wish to participate. This includes early morning sessions, one to one coaching in free periods and a supporting programme of analysis and conditioning.

Facilities for the game are outstanding. There is a dedicated indoor school with high quality lighting, permanent nets with bowling machines, video cameras and other technology. Additionally, the Hirst Centre's double sports hall provides further indoor nets as well as a large area for Indoor Cricket. Outdoors, there are four grass squares, a large, enclosed artificial net complex, several portable net cages and multiple bowling machines. The main ground has hosted First Class Cricket: there is a Lancashire game annually and, for the first time in 2023, a women's List A game at Sedbergh.

The school produces a steady stream of elite cricketers. In addition to England star, Harry Brook, there are currently 6 Sedberghians playing First Class and list A Cricket. There have been five schoolboy internationals (including two England captains) and one female in the last few years.





## HEAD OF CRICKET ROLE

The school seeks to appoint a dynamic, charismatic Cricket coach to lead the next stage of the development of the game at Sedbergh. This will build on the spectacular triumphs of the current programme, which has been ably led by Martin Speight for the last 8 years. During this time, there have been extensive improvements in coaching and competition, which have been reflected in both increased success and also improved levels of participation. The most recent significant development is in the emergence of girls' Cricket. All of these dimensions are important parts of the Sedbergh Cricket identity, and the new Head of Cricket will be expected to nurture and develop all of them.

The successful candidate will lead the coaching programmes at all levels. This will include working closely with the top players, to maximise their potential, but also encouraging a love of the game amongst boys and girls of all levels of skill and commitment. An input into the Prep School programme will be expected.



The ability to produce boys and girls teams capable of competing at the highest level of school Cricket is important. Sedbergh continues to be ambitious to develop the game further, and to lead the way in both performance and participation. The appointed person will be expected to share this ambition, and have a clear vision of what would be necessary to achieve this.

A successful record of playing and coaching the game to a high

level will be essential. This may have been achieved in a range of environments, and applications are welcomed from candidates from all backgrounds in the game. Alongside technical competence will be the capacity to inspire boys and girls to love the game, to develop an enthusiasm for improving and a pride in playing for the school. No specific qualifications are required, though it is expected that the successful candidate is likely to have high level coaching certificates – or the ability to achieve them. A degree would be an advantage, as will familiarity with player pathways and connections in the elite game. Experience of coaching young players is essential and previous employment within independent education is preferred. However, candidates with a recent background in the professional game will also be considered.

The appointed person will also be an ambassador of the game in the school, and a custodian of its values and reputation. It is important that Sedbergh teams display consistently high standards of commitment, sportsmanship, appearance and punctuality.

The ability and willingness to coach winter sports, at any level, will be advantageous.





## WORKING AT SEDBERGH

Sedbergh School is a vibrant and welcoming community. The vast majority of teachers live in the town, many in school accommodation, which contributes to a close collegiality. There is a lively social life, in which most staff choose to participate. Quality of life in Cumbria is high, and this is reflected in a low rate of staff turnover.

The School is situated in a spectacular location within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Sedbergh is a thriving market town, with its own range of shops and leisure amenities. The School is central to the community, without dominating it. It is popular with tourists, and a regular stop for Dales Way walkers. Although it is located in a stunning rural environment, there is ready access to both motorway and rail networks. The M6 (J37) is ten minutes' drive, and Oxenholme Station, on the outskirts of Kendal, is 2 hours 37 minutes from London, and 2 hours from Edinburgh. The central Lake District is half an hour away.



Sedbergh is one of a small number of full boarding schools in the UK, and the only one in the north. As is usual in this type of school, all staff participate fully in the wider life of the organisation. All teachers, regardless of subject, are expected to contribute to games, extra curricular activities, academic tutoring and boarding duties. Term times are busy, but rewarding, and holidays



are usually longer than other independent schools. Staff have wide access to the School's sports facilities, and many make regular use of the various gyms and swimming pool. The location is perfect for walking, cycling, mountain biking and other outdoor pursuits. It is an outstanding environment for bringing up children.

Salaries reflect experience and qualifications, and school accommodation is often available. Other benefits apply, including a contributory pension scheme. Children of staff can be educated at Sedbergh School, Sedbergh Prep School and Mulberry Bush Nursery at heavily discounted rates. There is excellent Early Years provision locally, and high quality maintained schools are available in the area.



## NEXT STEPS

Please note that we are working with Independent Coach Education on this appointment, who are able to answer any enquiries from prospective candidates. To arrange an informal discussion prior to applying, please contact Daniel Scargill to arrange a conversation: [dan@independentcoacheducation.co.uk](mailto:dan@independentcoacheducation.co.uk)

Applications must be made on the School's application form, which can be obtained via the [School website](http://www.sedberghschool.org), or directly from [hr@sedberghschool.org](mailto:hr@sedberghschool.org).

Closing date for applications: Friday 23 June at 12.00 noon.

Interviews: Week commencing 26 June.

The school reserves the right to make an appointment at any stage of the process, so early application is advised

Please note that candidates invited for interview will be expected to arrive at Sedbergh the previous evening.

### SAFEGUARDING

Sedbergh School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service. Issues relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children will be discussed at interview.

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The School is committed to the principles of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion. It seeks to attract and retain the very best staff, ensuring that our staff body reflects the diversity of our students and the local community.







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