



## Teacher of Religion and Philosophy

### Information Pack

Completed applications should be emailed to [recruitment@mgs.org](mailto:recruitment@mgs.org)

Deadline for applications: 09:00 on Tuesday 23 April 2019

## **Teacher of Religion and Philosophy**

### **The role**

We are seeking to appoint, from September 2019 or January 2020, a full-time teacher of Religion and Philosophy to work in our large and highly successful Religion and Philosophy department.

We are looking for an inspirational teacher, whether experienced or newly qualified, who is able to share their passion for the subject with our talented pupils.

Alongside their teaching duties, all teaching staff have a pastoral role as form tutors and are expected to play a full and active part in the co-curricular programme of the School.

### **Religion and Philosophy at MGS**

The Religion and Philosophy department is highly regarded by pupils, staff and parents. We emphasise the academic nature of the subject, and strive to make the subject interesting, challenging and enjoyable. There are currently six full-time and two part-time staff, all of whom are specialists in Religious Studies, Theology or Philosophy.

Religious Studies and Philosophy are taught throughout the School. MGS is a multi-cultural and multi-faith school, and the teaching in the department reflects this. In Years 7 and 8 we teach critical thinking skills, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam. In Year 9 all pupils study the history of western Philosophy through a bespoke course, centred around seven fundamental philosophical questions. In Year 10, pupils who choose to continue with Religious Studies are prepared for the Edexcel IGCSE. In Year 10, they choose from Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism, and in Year 11 they study Philosophy and moral issues. We currently have five IGCSE sets in Year 10 and four in Year 11. Last year, over 95% of pupils achieved an A or A\* grade in the subject.

For A-level Religious Studies we currently follow the OCR Specification, focusing on Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought. Numbers at A-level are strong (currently over 40) and results are excellent; it is rare for any pupil to achieve less than a B grade. From September 2019 we shall move from A-level to Pre-U Philosophy and Theology, teaching Epistemology and Ethics as the specialist papers.

All Year 12 pupils study our innovative 'Perspectives' course, with several colleagues from other departments assisting with the teaching of this course. This is a pupil-led, interdisciplinary discussion course, aimed at introducing pupils to research and guiding them to become more articulate and critically aware.

Members of the department also contribute to the Sixth Form enrichment programme, delivering courses to pupils who are interested in developing their knowledge of Philosophy, Ethics, Theology and Religious Studies, as well as contributing to the preparation of pupils applying for medical degree courses.

Every year, several pupils are accepted to read Theology, Religious Studies or Philosophy at leading universities. We have a strong record of success in achieving offers Oxford and Cambridge; we maintain strong links with several Oxford and Cambridge colleges and Theology, R.S. and Philosophy departments at leading universities.

Alongside the curriculum the department runs a host of co-curricular activities and societies. Our Lower School Philosophy Club engages boys in a range of logical, ethical and epistemological questions and debates, often in a hands-on manner. The Middle School Philosophy Club includes both discussions and philosophy through film and is led by Sixth Formers. The Sixth Form Philosophy Society – the Berkeley Society – is run by Sixth Formers and comprises talks by pupils, former pupils studying the disciplines at university and, occasionally, teachers. A team of Sixth Formers commission and edit the Philosophy magazine, *Ad Absurdum*. A separate team chair the Philosophy and Religion reading group, which is attended by pupils from other schools. Boys, especially in Sixth Form, enter national essay competitions. The department also runs a specialist option in Philosophy in the Junior School.

The department is well-resourced, and is based in its own suite of rooms, which includes a departmental office.

### **Why work at MGS?**

#### **The School**

The Manchester Grammar School has a long and distinguished history, and is an exciting, stimulating and rewarding community in which to work.

It was founded in 1515, by Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter, to prepare able boys from the Manchester area, regardless of their background, to go to Oxford or Cambridge. The School has gained an international reputation for academic excellence, and enjoys a strong record of success with top universities, both in the UK and overseas.

We take our motto, *Sapere Aude* ('Dare to be Wise'), as meaning that we must challenge our pupils and expect to be challenged by them, and this is one of the things which makes teaching at MGS so rewarding.

In 2018 The Manchester Grammar School was the Sunday Times Schools Guide Northwest Independent School of the Year.

#### **Bursaries and social mobility**

MGS's Foundation Bursary Appeal has been the most successful appeal of its kind held by any school and is a cornerstone of our ethos. Its aim is to ensure that a place at MGS is available to any boy who passes our entrance assessments, regardless of his family's financial background. More than 200 boys currently receive full or partial means-tested bursaries. (The average bursary is 90% of the school fee.) Our long-term ambition is to be needs-blind, so that every boy who passes our entrance assessments can take up a place, regardless of his parents' ability to pay.

#### **Our pupils**

The School comprises over 1550 boys in Years 3 to 13. All boys are assessed for entry on the basis of their considerable potential by observing their individual talents in imaginative lessons. A formal entrance exam only plays a part in entry to Year 7. Our

admissions policy aims to be needs-blind to enable the School to be a diverse community of talented individuals from all backgrounds.

Boys come from across the North-West and from every type of background, and the boys who join the School each year come in equal numbers from maintained and independent primary schools.

### **Our teachers**

Staff at MGS come from every walk of life. Every year we welcome to our staff NQTs as well as experienced teachers. We expect all applicants to have a good degree. However, a teaching qualification, whilst desirable, is not essential; we can and do provide full support for those who wish to become qualified after appointment. Often teachers who have taught for a number of years join us to gain extra experience before moving on to become a head of department elsewhere. We are deeply committed to the professional development of our staff. Many colleagues have gone on to deputy headships and headships elsewhere; likewise, many staff choose to stay with us.

People who teach here will have a love of their subject and will have the ability to inspire and challenge able pupils. Our teachers enjoy making an active contribution to co-curricular activities, both for the reward of the activity itself and because of the different dimension it gives to their relationship with their pupils.

### **Our co-curriculum**

The co-curriculum is central to the ethos of MGS. Life outside the classroom is extraordinarily vibrant, both in terms of its diversity and quantity, and is a source of great enjoyment and challenge for our pupils and staff alike. It includes a vast amount and range of sport, music, drama, adventure, service and intellectual activities.

The School values the passion and commitment of its teachers in sharing their interests and enthusiasms with pupils outside of the classroom and seeks to enable staff to play to their passions whenever possible. Staff are given great autonomy over the activities they organise, and our pupils are given equal freedom to develop passions of their own.

Some numbers may best illustrate what we offer. We have over 150 clubs and societies, 95 representative sports teams and 40 different sports. We have 24 musical groups with 280 participants, and typically more than a dozen drama productions each year.

Every year 250 pupils go on four week-long camps and we have overseas treks; we offer a wide range of outdoor pursuits and are one of the largest centres for D of E in the North-West. Alongside this there is a vast range of educational trips and visits, both in the UK and abroad. On average, each pupil spends twelve days a year on trips.

In 2018 *School Sport* magazine named Manchester Grammar School as the best school for sport in the North of England, and placed the School in the top five schools nationally.

Visit our website to find out more.

## **Our facilities**

Facilities are excellent. Recent developments have included the purchase of a new Steinway Model D grand piano for the Memorial Hall. There is also a new sports hall, astro-turf and major upgrades to our multi-gym, swimming pool and sports pitches. We have an exceptionally equipped theatre and drama studios and award-winning Junior School buildings.

## **Manchester and the North-West**

Manchester is a vibrant and exciting place, as you would fully expect of Britain's second city. One of the fastest growing cities in Europe, it has a cosmopolitan outlook, a flourishing, varied cultural life and excellent restaurants and nightlife. It is a wonderful, stimulating place to live, with outstanding sport and leisure facilities, catering for every possible interest.

Theatre is vibrant and diverse, with venues including the innovative Royal Exchange, Home, The Lowry (in Salford Quays), Palace Theatre and Opera House. The Bridgewater Hall is an international centre of musical excellence and home to three major orchestras, whilst the Manchester Evening News Arena, the Apollo and many smaller venues contribute to the diverse range of music on offer in the city.

Befitting a city with such rich history and traditions, Manchester has excellent galleries and museums, and is, of course, a major centre for soccer, cricket, cycling and many other sports. Media City in Salford (adjacent to Manchester) is one of the country's most important centres for television and radio production, and is growing all the time.

Whilst offering all that you would expect from a major city, Manchester has the advantage of being very accessible and enjoys excellent transport links. London is only two hours away by train and Manchester's international airport is only five miles from the School. Areas of outstanding natural beauty are close by. The Peak District National Park, the Pennine Way and the Cheshire Plain are within an hour's drive, whilst the Lake District and Snowdonia are within two hours.

There is a wide choice of places to live, with ample rented accommodation. Property prices compare very favourably with those elsewhere in the country. Many staff live in the South Manchester suburbs, but others live surrounded by the Pennine moors or the Derbyshire hills. There is an excellent choice of schools, both private and maintained, at all levels.

For more information about the city, visit [www.visitmanchester.com](http://www.visitmanchester.com).

## **How to apply**

Candidates of any age and any level of experience are invited to apply. Appropriate induction and support will be given. MGS provides full support to enable NQTs to obtain QTS; the School also will consider providing funding and support for a suitable unqualified teacher to complete a PGCE.

The Manchester Grammar School has its own generous salary scale, and pays significantly above main scale rates.

Applicants should complete an application form: this can be downloaded from the vacancies section of the School's website, and emailed to [recruitment@mgs.org](mailto:recruitment@mgs.org). The closing date is 9.00am on Tuesday 23 April, and we expect to hold interviews shortly afterwards.

The Manchester Grammar School is an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from all sections of the community. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and successful applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Our Safer Recruitment policy may be viewed on our website (click on 'our policies' at the bottom of the homepage).

*We would like to thank all applicants for their interest in the School and for taking the time to apply. However, please note that, because of the high volume of applications we receive, we regret that we are unable to reply individually to each application. Applicants who have not heard from us by 29 April should assume that they have not been shortlisted for interview.*

March 2019