



Highfields School

Applicant Information – Head of German

Dear Colleague

Thank you for your interest in this post at Highfields School, which is offered as a permanent position from September 2021 on 0.6fte. Please find some useful information on our school and details of how to apply.

Highfields school

Highfields is an 11-18 comprehensive school of approximately 1200 students. We are based on two sites 1.8 miles apart in the pleasant town of Matlock. Whilst located in the enviable environment of the Derbyshire Dales the school is within easy reach of Sheffield, Derby and Nottingham. We have been judged as a good school by Ofsted in our two previous inspections, most recently in May 2017. We are delighted but not at all surprised that the 2017 inspection team agreed with our own judgments about our strengths and improvement priorities. They were quick to identify and praise the strong ethos of our school, the good behaviour of our students, their positive approach to learning, and to identify the wide range of opportunities they enjoy.





School contact details

Address:	Highfields School Lower site (years 7-8) Starkholmes Road Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3DD	Highfields School Upper site (years 9-13) Upper Lumsdale Matlock Derbyshire DE4 5NA
Tel:	01629 584020 (Starkholmes)	01629 581888 (Lumsdale)
E-mail:	info@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk (general email)	
Web site:	www.highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk	

You are welcome to visit our school. However, especially in light of the current Covid-19 restrictions, we ask that you telephone before visiting us so that the most appropriate member of staff can meet you and we can ensure a minimum number of people are in the building at any one time.



School Day

8.35am	Warning Bell	
8.40am-9.00am*	Registration	*8.40am-8.57am to allow 3 mins 'travel' time to lessons
9.00am-9.50am*	Period 1	*9.00am-9.47am to allow 3 mins 'travel' time to lessons
9.50am-10.40am	Period 2	
10.40am-11.05am	Break	
11.00am	Warning Bell	
11.05am-11.55am*	Period 3	*11.05am-11.52am to allow 3 mins 'travel' time to lessons
11.55am-12.45	Period 4	
12.45pm-1.50pm	Lunch	
1.45pm	Warning Bell	
1.50pm-2.40pm*	Period 5	*1.50pm-2.37pm to allow 3 mins 'travel' time to lessons
2.40pm-3.30pm	Period 6	

Highfields School does not allow any student in years 7-11 off site during break or lunch times as per the school's safeguarding arrangements.

Due to COVID-19 we are currently operating a revised school day.



Purpose, Values and Aims of Highfields School

Our core purpose

To be an inclusive, happy community that values every individual and inspires them to achieve their full potential.

Our values

Inclusion, fairness and equality

Respect and tolerance

Celebration of achievement

Personal reflection, honesty and mutual trust

Care for our environment

Aims - to achieve our core purpose and values we aim to:

- Respect all students and staff as individuals
 - Celebrate diversity and promote equality
 - Provide appropriate levels of challenge
 - Develop understanding and enjoyment of learning
 - Support and encourage individuals to make a valuable contribution to society
 - Be a reflective school seeking continuous improvement
 - Play an active part in our community
 - Nurture physical and emotional well being
- Promote a happy, safe and stable environment





Teaching and learning

At Highfields School each teacher is expected to use the training and resources that the school offers to hone and perfect their classroom delivery. We aim to evaluate evidence about the effectiveness of different teaching strategies and constantly adapt our approach in light of this evidence. Teachers are learners.

The individuality of students is recognised and celebrated. A personalised approach to learning is used to ensure students are fully engaged, inspired and independent in the learning process. Activities are differentiated to accommodate individualised needs; independent learning is encouraged throughout the curriculum and students take responsibility for many aspects of their work. Students and staff are encouraged to focus on students' approach to learning and a framework is provided in the form of the 5Rs.

Responsible

Reasoning

Resilient

Resourceful

Reflective

The use of technology is widespread and students are supported with a range of stimulating resources, including those available on our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The VLE provides a diversity of subject materials accessible from both within school and from home.

Written and verbal feedback is consistently provided to direct student learning. Strengths are highlighted and formative 'next steps' are clearly explained to facilitate improvement. Students are expected to act upon supplied feedback and their progress is monitored carefully.



Highfields curriculum

All students at Highfields follow a broad and balanced curriculum. The Highfields curriculum is designed to engage and challenge all students to strive to achieve their full potential, both in their studies and in developing as young people equipped to live happy and fulfilling lives in modern Britain and beyond. We aim to develop confident, considerate and successful young people, who enjoy and appreciate the value of learning, ready to make positive contributions to their local communities and to society.

In key stage 4 (years 10 and 11) students follow a core curriculum of English, maths, science, religious studies, and physical education (PE). Students then have a choice of four 'optional' subjects to specialise in. We strongly encourage students to consider the choices they make at this stage within the context of the 'pathways' open to them post-16 and beyond.

Modern Foreign Languages Department

Mrs Bowen – Head of MFL

Languages are a window on the world. We want our students to grow an understanding of other cultures and equip them with the skills they need to learn a foreign language. We want every Highfields student to be a confident linguist. We want to instill a love of languages and curiosity about the way they work. We aim to teach students how to listen and read effectively and pick out key information, how to pronounce words, how to construct sentences and ask questions, how to express opinions both written and orally and communicate effectively. Students will develop a knowledge of grammar and grammatical concepts and will be able to translate accurately into and out of the foreign language.

We have an expert staff team, which includes four German speaking teachers, two of whom teach A'level and GCSE alongside our Head of Department. All our MFL teacher's deliver lessons across the age and ability range in at least two languages and have lived abroad which gives them a deep understanding of other cultures which they share with students. We also have a German foreign language assistant who helps develop the speaking skills and supports the learning of students at key stage 4 and 5.

Due to the quality of our lessons and staff, the proportion of students who choose to take a language at GCSE at Highfields is well above the national average, as are our results. We use Educas exam board at GCSE and A'level and an up to date range of resources at key stage 3. You will work closely with the Head of Spanish and Head of Department to achieve the best outcomes for our students.

Students will be assigned either French, German or Spanish in year 7. They will continue this language into year 8. In year 9 students continue with their first language and will be able to choose a second language from the other two languages on offer. For example, if French is studied in year 7 and 8, they will choose between Spanish and German in year 9. This gives students an opportunity to explore a different language and culture ahead of making their GCSE options choices in year 9.

Students at GCSE and A Level have the opportunity to participate in one of our very popular language trips to destinations such as Paris, Lyon, Berlin, Munich, Malaga and Madrid. We have a good uptake in all three languages at A Level, currently we have ten students studying German at year 13. Highfields students have gone on to study languages at universities across the country and have subsequently studied all over Europe, South America and the Far East.



MFL Key Stage 3

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Year 7 (German) what we learn

	What we learn	Key assessments
Term 1	Introduction - learn how to pronounce German, count to 20, alphabet, introduce yourself, say your age and where you live, describe your character, ask and answer questions about belongings. Grammar: use the verb <i>sein</i> , <i>haben</i> , <i>wohnen</i> , adjectives, have a grasp of the three different genders, the indefinite article and <i>mein</i> and <i>dein</i> .	Reading and Translation
Term 2	Family and Christmas culture - pets, 'superpets', family, birthdays, Christmas culture, speaking skills Grammar: use pronouns, <i>kann</i> + infinitive, adjectives with nouns, ordinal numbers, count beyond 20, more asking and answering of questions, more practice of present tense verbs	-
Term 3	Freetime - sports, leisure activities, how often, online freetime, listening skills Grammar: use <i>gern</i> , correct word order, present tense as future	Writing and Translation
Term 4	School - school subjects, days and times, describing teachers, school facilities and rules, reading and speaking skills Grammar: use <i>weil</i> to give reasons and opinions, more word order, use <i>sein</i> and <i>ihr</i> , prepositions	-
Term 5	Travel - saying what there is/isn't in town; buying souvenirs, snacks, drinks, holiday plans. Grammar: <i>es gibt</i> , <i>ein/kein</i> , <i>ich moechte</i> , <i>werden</i> , euros and cents	-
Term 6	Consolidation - 'Ostwind' films, speaking skills, reading skills, Projektzonen.	Speaking



Year 8 (German) what we learn

	What we learn	Key assessments
Term 1	A Past Holiday – describing the past using perfect and imperfect tenses, holiday activities, types of accommodation, modes of transport, the weather and making a complaint.	Reading and Translation
Term 2	Media – film genres, types of television programme, reading preferences, screen time (how long is too long in front of the television or computer), speaking a foreign language, modal verbs, perfect tense, giving/understanding opinions.	
Term 3	Healthy Living – talking about typical breakfasts, typical German food, understanding and using recipes (the imperative), talking about healthy lifestyles and giving advice, understanding longer texts, describing and comparing dinner parties, using language creatively, note-taking skills.	Writing and Translation
Term 4	A School Trip – understanding rules, discussing daily routine, understanding and giving directions, describing a festival, learning and writing about festivals in Switzerland, describing an activity holiday, modal verbs, reflexive and separable verbs, adjectival agreement, perfect tense.	
Term 5	Going Out – discussing clothes and style, talking about plans for a date, talking about getting ready to go out, talking about how the date went, talking about uniforms, researching Fairtrade labels, 'wenn' clauses, future tense, questions, combining tenses.	
Term 6	Consolidation 'Ostwind' films, "Zoom" reading booklet, speaking skills, reading skills, translation skills	Speaking

Year 9 (German) what we learn

	What we learn	Key assessments
Term 1	Role-models - parts of the body, revising the present tense, talking about role-models, using weil (changing word order), talking about experiences in the past tense whilst revising the construction of the past tense, discussing future plans and aspirations, revision of the future tense, talking about injuries in the past tense,	-
Term 2	Music - talking about types of music, using different subject pronouns, talking about playing/ singing in a band, the use of seit with the present tense, discussing different bands, learning how to make comparisons, describing a music festival in the past tense, conducting an interview at a music festival, learning how to ask/ answer questions, understanding a variety of texts	Reading and translation



Term 3	My ambitions - discussing crazy ambitions/ dreams using the conditional tense, talking about part-time jobs, using modal verbs with man, discussing what you would like to be/ do in the future using the correct word order, talking about working in a ski resort, using in/ auf with the dative case, improving listening skills by understanding and responding to telephone messages, exploring an artist in detail, using descriptive language	Writing and translation
Term 4	Childhood - talking about your childhood using hatte/ war, talking about childhood activities and memories using modal verbs in the imperfect tense, comparing primary and secondary school but using comparatives, present and past tenses, talking about primary school friends using the superlative, reading and understanding fairy tales, recognizing the perfect and imperfect tenses, using detail in longer texts	Listening/reading
Term 5	Rights and duties - talking about age limits, practicing using the correct word order, talking about what is important to us using weil, comparing life now and in the past, understanding and using the present, past and future tenses, discussing how we can raise money for good causes using a variety of modal verbs in the wir form, describing small changes that can make a difference, discussing what is important for happiness, reading and responding to authentic literary texts	Speaking
Term 6	Consolidation: Das Wunder von Bern	-

German (GCSE)

Two years

Two tiers of entry – Foundation and Higher

Outline of the course: A modern languages GCSE will equip students with the skills necessary to communicate with people in a variety of situations. Students will be expected to learn vocabulary and grammar rules, to be able to manipulate and use the language independently. Learn how to access authentic material in a variety of media including film and literature as well as how to translate into and out of the target language.

Explore the customs and traditions of the countries where the language is spoken.

Some topics will have already been studied (but now at a more advanced level), some new, such as global issues and technology.

Other topics will include lifestyle, youth culture, leisure & media, home & local area, issues relating to the countries where the language studied is spoken and their customs and traditions and work, education and future plans.



Assessment criteria

- 25% Listening exam
- 25% Speaking exam
- 25% Reading exam
- 25% Writing exam

German (A'Level)

The course develops listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation skills as well as general knowledge of the countries when German is spoken. Students are encouraged to develop these skills through research and discussing topics in written and spoken language. They will study a novel (Der Vorleser) and a film (Die Welle) and put them in to their cultural and historical context.

Course content

Social issues and trends

Education, work and travel, diversity and local festivals

Youth culture and the making of modern society

Political, intellectual and artistic culture – including entertainment, the arts, architecture and new media.

In Year 13 students will undertake independent research on a cultural topic of their choice linked to a German speaking country.

Assessment criteria

Component 1 – Speaking 30%

Component 2 – Listening, reading and translation – 50%

Component 3 – Written paper – 20%

The application process

Please submit your application via the Derbyshire County Council website <https://jobs.derbyshire.gov.uk/> or through TES online. Within your application please include a statement of no more than 2 sides of A4 detailing your suitability for the post, highlighting:

- Your vision for a high quality German curriculum at Highfields School.
- How your previous experience, skills and attributes will help you to deliver the very best outcomes for the students at Highfields School.

Please note:

We **do not** accept CVs

Closing date for applications is **Wednesday 3 March 2021**

Provisional interview date is **Friday 12 March 2021**

We may be able to offer socially distanced visits to Highfields School, if you would like to arrange this or have any questions, please contact Rachel Wright, HR Officer at rwright@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk