TEACHER OF THEOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY
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.

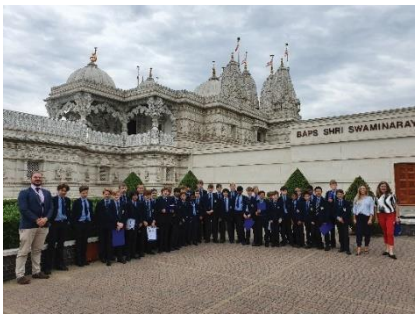
The Department



The Department aims to give pupils the opportunity to discover truth for themselves through a critical evaluation of their own key beliefs and those of others. We concentrate on maintaining rigour in the development of Theological and Philosophical skills whilst, at the same time, acknowledging the unique reflective contribution of this subject to the development of a student's self-awareness. A particular attempt is made to address events which are of importance in the world at large or of particular relevance to the pupil, concentrating on key existential questions such as "Who am I?" and "How do I relate to others?" These questions are approached from a range of theistic as well as secular perspectives, and pupils are encouraged to develop personal responses and articulate their own worldview. We are therefore seeking a dynamic, energetic and imaginative teacher with a strong academic background who can challenge pupils to develop both reflective and academic skills. The post is for an enthusiastic and well-qualified teacher of Theology and Philosophy to deliver the subject throughout the School. This strong and successful department is committed to academic rigour in the study of Theology, World Religions and Philosophy. A willingness to engage with the continuing development of the curriculum is essential.

We currently have 120 students studying Theology and Philosophy at KS4 and 40 at KS5. Theology and Philosophy has an excellent academic reputation at Whitgift and 88% of GCSE candidates obtained a 9 – 7 grade in 2020. At OCR A Level Religious Studies, 90% of students achieved A*-B and 80% received grades 7 -6 in IB Philosophy. Each year we have at least 10 students choosing to study Theology and/or Philosophy or PPE at a top university.

		2020	**2019**	**2018**
GCSE	A* - A or 9 - 7	88%	88%	84%
A Level	A* - B	90%	90%	92%
IB (Higher Level)	7 - 6	80%	100%	100%



Theology and Philosophy is compulsory for all students up to Year 9. The Lower First (Year 6) are introduced to key philosophical and theological questions with a focus on developing skills of genuine enquiry through a Philosophy for Children approach. The First Form (Year 7) are introduced to philosophical reasoning through a study of Socrates followed by a theological unit on the life of Jesus. Throughout Key Stage 3, boys make a systematic study of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism through a study of themes such as Gender and Ethics. In the Third Form (Year 9), students focus on Philosophy of Religion. In the Fourth and Fifth forms, TP is optional but popular and we follow the Edexcel iGCSE course. In the Sixth Form students choose to study OCR A Level Religious Studies or IB Philosophy and we tend to have three or four sixth form sets with two teachers for each set.

The Department is committed to giving all students, examined and non-examined, the opportunity to explore Theological and Philosophical questions. We therefore currently run an Upper School Philosophy Society and Lower School Theology and Philosophy Society. The Department runs a range of visits to places of worship in the local community and has links with visiting speakers from universities.

At present, the Theology and Philosophy department is a team of five subject specialists. All staff are equipped with laptops and have access to an excellent range of academic materials to support pedagogic development.

Current Vacancy

We are seeking to recruit for January 2022, a gifted and innovative classroom teacher of broad intellectual interests. Candidates should have the ability to capture students' imagination and challenge them according to their ability. The right candidate may be able to teach up to KS5 depending on experience although this is not a necessity. There will be significant opportunities for contributing to the continued development of the curriculum and exploring new teaching strategies in the Department. We teach in a multi-cultural and multi-faith environment while respecting the School's Christian foundation. This requires sensitivity and respect toward all faiths. A commitment to teaching both Theology and Philosophy to the highest possible standard is assumed.

Boarding

Our superbly equipped boarding facilities are ideally placed within the spacious grounds of Hailing 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. 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 Lucy Trott, Head of Theology and Philosophy on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail ltt@whitgift.co.uk should you have any questions regarding this position.

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), staff discount on off-peak membership at our on-site gym (Nuffield Health), 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.

For further information and an online application form, please visit www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies. For any general queries, please telephone the School Human Resources Department on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail SchoolHR@whitgift.co.uk.

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.