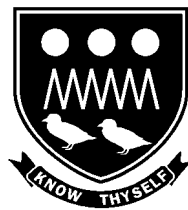


Harlington Upper School



Assistant Head of Science

MPS/UPS + TLR 2C (£6515)

Harlington Upper School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Posts working with either children and/or vulnerable adults will be subject to the disclosure of criminal record

Assistant Head of Science MPS/UPS + TLR 2C (£6515)

A suitably qualified and experienced teacher of Science is required to contribute to the leadership of a successful and supportive department. It is anticipated that the person appointed will have responsibility for a key area of the Science curriculum. This will be decided by negotiation depending on interest and experience. Possible areas of responsibility may include leadership and management of A level Sciences, GCSE Science or the progress of specific student groups in Science (e.g. more able or disadvantaged students). The Science department is committed to providing high quality teaching and learning for all students. This is therefore an ideal opportunity for an ambitious teacher wishing to develop further in a friendly and positive environment. This post will provide an opportunity to fully develop leadership skills in preparation for further promotion.

The School

Harlington Upper School is a large, successful upper school with a strong local reputation for high levels of student achievement. Established in 1974 and having sustained very good levels of performance for many years Harlington Upper School has now reached a significant stage in its development. Our Ofsted inspection of October 2013 confirmed that we are a good school with many strengths. We believe we are an even better school now.

Harlington has a unique location in Mid Bedfordshire with a pleasant location and good transport links. We are placed in the heart of a rural environment but have strong urban links. Harlington is one mile from junction 12 of the M1 and has a train station with commuter routes to London and the Midlands.

There are currently approximately 1200 students in the school, including approx. 270 in the sixth-form. Students join the school in year 9 after attending one of three main feeder middle schools. Students of all abilities make good progress and gain excellent results. Attainment is well above local authority and national averages. For example, in 2017 over 81% of students gained GCSE grades 9-4 in English and mathematics. More broadly, 75% of students gained five or more grades 9-4 / A* - C including English and Maths. We are proud that usually all students progress to appropriate employment, education or training aged 16.

A Level results at Harlington are routinely above average and many students gain the highest grades possible. In 2017 45% of all A levels were graded as A*, A and B. It is therefore not surprising that almost all students were successful in securing admission to their first-choice university.

Although Harlington is a very successful school we are not complacent and recognise that we can achieve even more. We therefore focus on supporting each individual student to make the best possible progress. We are very aware that school is more than just a place to gain good exam results and we work continually to maintain the positive, supportive and respectful culture that characterises Harlington. We have a very effective pastoral system, led by Heads of Year and supported by a team of Student Support Assistants. Students are guided by the school motto "Know Thyself" and attitudes to all aspects of school life are good.

The Department

The Science department at Harlington Upper School consists of 18 teachers, supported by 3 Laboratory technicians.

The department occupies a suite of eleven laboratories. There are two prep rooms and a faculty office for staff. All classrooms are equipped with a fixed digital projector and ICT provision is excellent.

The department currently offers:

- GCSE Combined Science (OCR Gateway)
- GCSE Chemistry (OCR Gateway)
- A level Biology (OCR)
- A level Physics (OCR)
- GCSE Biology (OCR Gateway)
- GCSE Physics (OCR Gateway)
- A level Chemistry (OCR)
- BTEC Applied Science L3

Courses

All Year 9 students are currently taught for seven hours per fortnight. They are placed in groups of similar ability at the start of the year and approximately 35% of students study triple science at GCSE.

Exams results are good, for example, in 2017 over 75% of all students gained GCSE grades A*-C in at least two Sciences. This represents very positive student progress.

A large number of students study Physics, Chemistry and Biology to A level and also gain superb results. BTEC Applied Science student performance is also very strong.

The Post

The Assistant Head of Science will take a leadership role for substantial areas of our science faculty. The specific areas of responsibility will be negotiated with the person appointed.

The postholder will also play a key role in the leadership of the wider department, working alongside Head of Science to further develop the quality of teaching and learning.

Summary

Science is a popular subject taught by a cohesive team dedicated to enriching the experience of Science for all students across the full range of abilities.

The person appointed will join an already successful department which is at the leading edge of developments in teaching and learning in the school. Overall the attached person specification outlines the attributes and skills we are looking for.

Assistant Head of Science: Person Specification

Essential	Desirable
<i>Qualifications</i>	
Education to degree or equivalent level in Science (or other relevant subject) plus teaching qualification	
<i>Skills and Experience</i>	
Experience of classroom teaching, including evidence of high student achievement	Evidence of reflective practice leading to improved skills.
Understanding or experience of leadership and management of a subject department	Successful experience in position of responsibility or evidence of potential to fulfil such a role
Ability to teach an A level Science subject	Ability to teach A level Chemistry or Physics
Ability to manage and lead achievement focused projects within the Science department	Very good ICT skills
Strong commitment to the values and ethos of the school	Experience of extra-curricular activities
Ability to communicate well with students, parents and staff	
<i>Personal Attributes</i>	
Ability to positively influence the work of individuals with the Science team	Ability to motivate students and staff
Enthusiasm and flexibility	Potential for further promotion
Good organisational and time-management skills	Perseverance
Readiness to identify and respond to new challenges	Understanding of own strengths and areas for development
Ability to demonstrate sound judgement and decision making skills	