



# The Manchester Grammar School

## **Teacher of History**

### **Information Pack**

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

Closing date: 09:00 on Monday 24 February 2020

## **Teacher of History**

We are seeking to appoint, from 1 September 2020, an outstanding historian to teach in our History department. This is a full-time position.

We are looking for someone with a good History degree who can provide inspirational teaching for our talented pupils, sharing with them their a passion for the subject. Applications are equally welcome from those who have not taught before and those with teaching experience. Full training, including support to achieving qualified teacher status, will be provided where required.

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 vibrant co-curricular programme of the School.

### **The History Department**

The History department is large, including eleven full-time teachers. Results in public examinations are consistently outstanding, with typically 90% A\*-A at IGCSE and 96% A\*-B or equivalent at A-level/Pre-U. Each year a number of boys win places to read History at Oxbridge and a large number go on to read History at other leading universities. The department also has an interest in inter-disciplinary work and has strong links with Modern Languages and subjects such as Archaeology, Anthropology and History of Art, which are explored as optional subjects in the 6<sup>th</sup> form.

Courses followed in the first two years (Years 7-8) broadly echo the National Curriculum guidelines. The Year 7 course involves a study of a variety of aspects of medieval history beginning with the Norman Conquest. The Year 8 course follows the broad theme of 'revolutions', and includes a study of the English Civil War, the American Revolution, and a local unit on the development of 'scuttling' in nineteenth century Manchester which explores the effects of the Industrial Revolution on the city. The course in Year 9 consists of a unit of study on the Great War 1914-1918 and a unit on the rise and impact of Nazism in Germany from 1918-1945. In Years 7 to 9 all boys go on History trips which are tied closely to particular themes in the curriculum: Year 7 historians visit Conwy castle; Year 8 historians visit the Blackden Trust, home of author and Old Mancunian Alan Garner, to study Civil War-related archaeology; whilst Year 9 boys visit the Imperial War Museum North as part of their investigation into life in Nazi Germany. Year 12 medieval historians have an annual visit to Battle (East Sussex) and London (Tower of London; Westminster abbey; Temple Church).

All boys study History to the end of Year 9. The great majority opt to continue History in Years 10 and 11 (typically seven sets). In Year 10 and 11 pupils currently follow the Cambridge International IGCSE course; the topics being studied at present comprise International Relations from 1919 to 1939; the Cold War 1945 – 1989 (including the Korean & Vietnam Wars) & China 1934 – 1989 as the depth study. Coursework is submitted on China.

In the Sixth Form, History is a very popular subject; with typically well over 100 students studying the subject across the two years. In September 2014 we started teaching the Cambridge Pre U. Boys study either early Medieval or Stuart History for the British paper and either US History 1781-1865 or 1939-90 for the American paper. In the Upper Sixth, boys take a Special Subject either on the Crusades or the French Revolution and a Personal Investigation.

Members of the department also provide specialist History enrichment teaching in our innovative Junior School curriculum.

The History area is well equipped with eight classrooms, each with a data projector and DVD player. All classrooms have PCs and internet access points. Provision of books within the department is generous. There is a substantial DVD library. There is a departmental office located in the heart of the department in which there are networked PCs and room to work on preparation and marking.

Responsibilities for maintaining and developing facilities and courses are shared and new ideas are regularly discussed both informally and at regular departmental meetings. The department contributes to the school's virtual learning environment, Moodle, where there are extensive resources to support each of the courses offered by the department. We have active history societies for all sections of the school. We have regular speakers from universities. There is a 6<sup>th</sup> Form History magazine, 'The Shoardian, which pupils can write for. There are regular trips at weekends for the Lower School. There is an annual European battlefields trip: Ypres and the Somme, Normandy or Berlin, on a rotating triennial basis. In addition, there is a bi-annual visit to Washington D.C. and trips to other more exotic destinations are organised every 2-3 years, mainly targeted at Sixth Form historians.

## **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 almost 1600 pupils 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 pupils 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.

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

## **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 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 construction of a sports hall, international-standard hockey astro-turf and tennis courts, and the purchase of a Steinway Model D grand piano for the Memorial Hall. 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**

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 Monday 24 February, 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 28 February should assume that they have not been shortlisted for interview.*

February 2020