

# Boarding Housemistress Information for Candidates

## The School

Oakham is one of the UK's most forward thinking and innovative co-educational boarding and day schools. The school has 1060 pupils aged 10-18, half of them boarders, half day pupils. With equal numbers of boys and girls since 1989, the School offers a truly co-educational environment.

Whilst attracting pupils from all over the country and abroad, the School enjoys a close relationship with the town and the surrounding area. Three years ago Oakham School became one of the sponsors of an academic Sixth Form Academy, Harington School.

Oakham's strength lies in providing a spectacularly wide range of opportunities and activities which sit alongside an invigorating and challenging academic curriculum. In the Upper School, students choose between A-levels, Pre-U and BTEC qualifications, or the IB Diploma.

In recent years, the school has made it a priority to develop independent learning through a series of learning habits, which are increasingly embedded across the curriculum, both inside and outside the classroom. The 'Oakham learning journey' begins in the Lower School (situated on the Jerwoods Site), where boys and girls are admitted through the School's own entrance exam at 11 (there is also a small entry at 10). Pupils also enter the school at 13+ through the Common Entrance (CE) examination and we have a further major entry point at 16+.

Over many years, the school has not only been incredibly successful academically, but it is also recognised nationally for its outstanding achievements in sport, music, drama and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The School is at an incredibly exciting point in its history and has a very ambitious development plan for the next five years, including a new facility for the Performing Arts. Last September, the School opened a new classroom block for Humanities. This year, the School opened a new state-of-the-art Faculty of Social Sciences and has just commenced major redevelopment of the Sports Centre. Oakham School does not stand still.

## The Houses

The pastoral side of the school is extremely well developed. All our pupils are members of one of the 16 houses, each with its own Housemaster or Housemistress, and every pupil has his or her own tutor. Tutors are responsible for a group of about a dozen pupils. All members of staff (including the Senior Leadership Team) have a specific pastoral role at Oakham.



Just over half of the School's pupils are boarders. In addition to full boarding, we offer a flexible boarding option to suit modern family life – which covers between 3 and 5 nights a week.

Each Boarding House is also home to the Housemaster or Housemistress and their families, so the pupils are very much part of their extended family. The Housemaster or Housemistress is supported by two Resident Tutors, a Matron and non residential tutors who do evening duties in House, in addition to their work with their tutor group. There is also a wider support network for pupils in the form of the Chaplain, Counsellor and medical centre staff.

The Middle School Boarding Houses (years 9-12) are where boarders will spend the majority of their time at Oakham. They start there in Form 3 (year 9) and leave at the end of Form 6 (year 12), ready to move to the final year (year 13) Houses. House life is busy and fun-packed and the weekends are no exception. Saturday mornings are spent in lessons, after which a large proportion of pupils will take part in the afternoon's sporting programme. There are a wealth of social events on offer in-House or in partnership with other Houses and many opportunities for pupils to pursue hobbies, catch up with prep or simply to relax.

Our Houses provide opportunities to support our key principles of mutual respect, seizing opportunities and service. They are communities where the compassionate and considerate pastoral support enables pupils to develop as individuals whilst fostering a sense of tolerance and respect. We endeavour to help pupils have an awareness of their environment and the wider world we live in with a genuine confidence to play a positive role in its future. This comes through allowing opportunities to lead and to work in teams; thus developing young people who are comfortable in leadership positions, happy to accept responsibility but not assume privilege as a result.

## **Wider Curriculum**

Oakham's total curriculum is particularly rich. The school has a strong reputation in the creative and performing arts. The Music Department has nearly 600 music lessons per week for pupils learning an instrument and there is a wide variety of orchestras, ensembles and groups, and over 270 children sing in the school choirs. At any one time there are some 45 music scholars in the school. Theatrical productions are frequent in the school's three venues for drama, including the professionally equipped Queen Elizabeth Theatre which is also used by the town and touring professional companies. The Richard Bull Centre houses a diversity of artistic enterprises from design technology to sculpture, textiles to jewellery. Scholarships are available in Art, Drama and Design & Technology. A whole range of societies and activities flourish, from 'dissection club' to chess and from the CCF to conservation.

Sport is outstanding and there is a considerable breadth of sport available at Oakham. The main sports are rugby, hockey and cricket for boys and hockey, netball and tennis for girls. In addition to this, the school has a strong reputation in sailing, rifle shooting, golf and swimming. In most years, there are over fifty boys and girls who represent their county or country in a variety of sports. School teams regularly participate in National finals in a variety of sports.

Pupils are encouraged to be part of the wider life of the community and to see life beyond the East Midlands. This happens in a number of ways, through community service, through trips abroad, but most effectively through the Duke of Edinburgh

Award Scheme. Around 250 pupils participate in D of E activities every year and the school has a strong track record of success having achieved well over 5000 awards since first offering the scheme in 1960.

The richness and range of this activity is achieved within a full boarding environment operating seven days a week, with the term punctuated Exeats (half term holidays). Term time can be intense, but rewarding: holidays are long. Members of staff are expected to involve themselves fully in the life of the school, helping with games and other activities outside the classroom. Special skills are welcomed but what matters most is a willingness to give time and energy generously.

Oakham is a Church of England foundation with an Anglican chaplain and a chapel which is in use every day. The school warmly welcomes those of other denominations. No-one is excluded from appointment on religious grounds but anyone intolerant of Christianity is unlikely to feel comfortable in the Oakham community.

## **Public Examination Results**

Academic performance across the school is excellent. In the IB Diploma in 2017, students achieved a mean score of 36.1 points, with over 90% of all Higher Level grades being 7, 6 or 5, and over a third scoring 38 or more points. At A-level, 12% of all examinations were graded A\*, and 42% graded either A\* to A. Overall, combining across all qualifications, results for the Upper School equate to around 47% A-level grades A\* or A or equivalent.

At GCSE level, typically over 60% of all examinations are awarded A\* or A; in 2017, over a fifth achieved straight A\*s and As, with over a quarter achieving five A\*s or better.

## **Timetable**

The school runs seven days a week during term time, with a total curriculum of pupil activity both within the formal timetable and beyond it. A full-time teacher is expected to teach twenty periods of 50 minutes per week, as well as fulfilling the tutorial and activity commitments.

## **Salary and Professional Development**

Oakham operates its own competitive salary structure, and the school is keen to recruit and retain high quality staff. There is a generous professional development budget, and staff are encouraged to undertake research and training that will both develop them and enhance the school's educational provision.

## **Inspection Reports**

Oakham School has recently undergone a very successful ISI Inspection (September 2013). The inspection reports can be viewed [here](#).

## **Application and Interviews**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to spend some time at the school and to meet the Headmaster, Senior Deputy Head and Deputy Head (Pastoral and Co-curricular), as well

as other colleagues from the school. Candidates will be asked to teach a lesson as part of the selection process and further details will be forthcoming should you be shortlisted.

Candidates who wish to apply for this post should send their completed application form, covering letter stating where they saw the advertisement and CV giving details of two referees, to:

Mr Nigel Lashbrook, Headmaster  
Oakham School  
Chapel Close  
Oakham  
Rutland, LE15 6DT

or via email to Gill Flint, School Administrator, [gaf@oakham.rutland.sch.uk](mailto:gaf@oakham.rutland.sch.uk).

Initial enquiries should be directed to 01572 758506.

**The closing date for applications is Friday 27 October (9am). Interviews are planned to take place between 6 – 20 November.**

Under current legislation, we are required to advise applicants that this appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure. Oakham School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service. Details of any criminal record (spent or unspent, due to exemption from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974) must be disclosed at interview. Only relevant convictions and other information will be taken into account so disclosure need not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position at Oakham School. A copy of the Recruitment of Ex-offenders Policy is enclosed. For further details, please visit the Disclosure & Barring website.