

Kingdown School Mathematics Department Information for Applicants

Kingdown has a highly successful Mathematics Department. We pride ourselves on the excellent standard of our teaching and the hard work displayed by pupils across all three Key Stages; this combination has resulted in excellent examination results over many years. I am very proud of the team I work with, both within the Department and the wider school, and I hope that this is a Department you feel that you would enjoy working in. I look forward to receiving your application!

DARREN MUNRO
Curriculum Leader of Mathematics

1. Department Structure and Main Responsibilities

TLR posts in the Mathematics Department are as follows:-

- Head of Department – Darren Munro
- Head of KS4 – Nick Bloxham
- Head of KS3 – James Pemberton
- Head of KS5 – Caroline Marsh

There are currently 14 teachers in the Department, housed in dedicated Maths teaching rooms with roof mounted projectors, interactive whiteboards and a staff computer in every room. Two members of the team are also members of SLT and a number of smaller responsibilities exists within the Department (SEN co-ordinator, ICT co-ordinator, A,G & T co-ordinator, resources development). All members of the team contribute to new ideas and we have an extensive collection of resources, especially ICT based.

2. Professional Development

Kingdown prides itself on the quality of the professional development opportunities it offers to both its own staff, and to others. We have a comprehensive NQT induction programme, including regular professional development, INSET meetings and training, and the allocation of a subject mentor and a teaching 'buddy' (a recently qualified teacher from a different Department), to offer help and support during the first few months in teaching. The Maths Department also acts as a 'Home School' to PGCE Maths students each year. All of the Department become involved in their training and we pride ourselves on giving them a very supportive environment in which to begin their teaching careers.

3. Curriculum

Key Stage 3

At KS3 we have created a SOW that encourages students to be reflective and proactive in their learning while frequently challenging them to think, adapt and problem solve to prepare them for the new Maths GCSE and life beyond schooling. Students are given a responsibility for their learning with clear objectives for the term ahead, which are also shared with parents. These learning lists, in conjunction with our assessments, are used to give every student a clear idea of their next steps and how to improve with the aim of developing a growth mind-set amongst the students. Students are given great opportunities to be successful at all levels and respond to this very well creating an excellent culture for learning.

Key Stage 4

For current Year 9 and beyond we teach the Edexcel Linear syllabus (9-1) with 4 groups taking Higher Tier exams and 8 taking Foundation Tier. We track pupil progress very effectively and provide challenge for all students. In 2015, 78% of students achieved A*-C grades in Maths at Kingdown on first entry. 50% of students made at 4 Levels of Progress from Key Stage, placing us as the top comprehensive school in Wiltshire. These results were built upon in 2016 where we scored an impressive 0.32 in value added. In addition, most of our Year 10 students take GCSE Statistics in Year 10 and our top set pupils sit the GCSE in Further Mathematics in Year 11.

'A' Level

'A' Level Maths is a hugely popular choice at Kingdown with 80+ currently studying Maths. The 'A' Level teaching of each group is shared between two teachers. We also teach a fully timetabled Further Maths option at A2 and have an ever increasing number of our students who go on to study Maths or Maths related degrees at the most prestigious Universities in the country. We are currently gearing up for the new reformed A levels which we will be taking exams in this summer.

In addition to traditional A levels we also offer Level 3 Mathematical Studies which allows pupils to continue Maths alongside other A level subjects without the high rigour that A level brings

4. Department Accommodation and Resources

The Maths Department is housed together in one block of eight classrooms, the HOF office and Department Office, and 4 more state of the art classrooms that have just reached completion. Each room has an Interactive Whiteboard and projector which has allowed the use of many ICT led initiatives including our KS3 on-line Scheme of Work, and 'A' Level tutorial PowerPoint's. WIFI access has recently seen a massive upgrading to make it available to use up to date technology with pupils within all classrooms.

5. Extra-Curricular Activities

Every Tuesday and Wednesday we run after school clubs at 'A' Level, GCSE and for all Gifted and Talented students in KS3 as well as a numeracy club primarily for KS3 pupils. All members of the Department contribute throughout the year and the excellent atmosphere and mutual respect is greatly appreciated by students and teachers alike.

We run a Maths Able, Gifted and Talented Group once a week and enter local and National Maths competitions to offer those students a suitable level of challenge.

6. Further Information

The Ethos of the Maths Department

The Maths Department at Kingdown is a dynamic and forward thinking Department that has been at the forefront of innovation and change in the Maths Curriculum for some time. We are keen to embrace new developments which enhance the learning experience we provide for our students – for example, we now offer a GCSE Statistics option and have been innovative in our flexible approach to helping pupils achieve their GCSE target grades. We were one of only twelve schools in the country that piloted work on Key Indicators at KS3, and offer further Maths 'A' Level as an established 'AS' and 'A2' option. All of this we can do because we are a supportive, friendly team where new ideas and approaches are welcomed and openly discussed. We challenge our students and expect great things and they never disappoint!

What Sort of Person Do We Want?

The focus for the Department is firmly on '*teaching and learning*', and looking at ways of improving and enhancing the learning experience our students receive. We are very 'data rich' and we use all available information, much of it shared with the pupils, to enable further progress for individual pupils, classes and year groups.

We are looking for an excellent classroom practitioner who can make use of all that we have to offer and contribute to new ideas. We will also require enthusiasm, hard work and a sense of humour! In return we will offer you support, training, and a stimulating and vibrant working atmosphere. If you like what you have read, then we would love to hear from you – and will look forward to meeting you at interview.

CRITERIA FOR TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

The successful candidate will be able to fulfil the following criteria:-

1. An excellent classroom practitioner who uses a range of successful teaching strategies and is capable of sharing those ideas with others
2. Can relate well to pupils across the full age and ability range
3. Excellent communication and management skills
4. Can contribute to the development of our Schemes of Work and assessments.
5. Can enthuse about Mathematics and show imagination and flair
6. Awareness of current issues in Mathematics including ICT and the National Numeracy Strategy
7. Commitment to student support in the role of tutor or support tutor.

It is expected that the successful candidate will take a full and active role in the developments undertaken by the Department.

A final job description will be negotiated on appointment.

Interview

The strongest candidates will be invited for interview week commencing 28.01.19. The day will include:

1. Welcome to the school, information and discussion
2. Tour of the school
3. Student Panel
4. Teaching
5. Short listing if required
6. Formal interview for short listed candidates by Headteacher, and Senior Leaders.

NB: If you are shortlisted for interview, please ensure that you bring with you, original identification documents (current passport, driving licence, birth certificate...) originals of your DfE /Teaching Council for England Registration (formerly the GTC) Teacher Evidence, Qualification Evidence (GCSE, A level as well as Degree and PGCE certificates), DBS (if you have one) etc... Thank you.