

The Royal Masonic School for Girls



Teacher of Religious Studies
(Full Time, 1 Year Fixed Term Contract)

Information for
Prospective Candidates

September 2017



THE ROYAL MASONIC SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS

AT RICKMANSWORTH PARK SINCE 1934

www.royalmasonic.herts.sch.uk

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The School



RMS has an exceptional, unusual and distinguished history. One of the oldest girls' schools in the country, the School was founded by Chevalier Ruspini in 1788 with the purpose of educating the daughters of Freemasons who were unable to support their families through death, illness or disability. The School started with fifteen pupils and a matron in Somers Place in East London and moved twice within London until it finally settled in the magnificent grounds of Rickmansworth Park in 1934.

The School became an open fee paying school in 1978 and accepts girls from all backgrounds and faiths. The majority of families who are now associated with the School have no links with Freemasonry, with our name now largely being a reference to our past.

RMS is a day and boarding school, attracting day girls from across Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Middlesex and North London, and boarders from all over the world. It is located within easy reach of Central London (30 minutes by train/underground), and is just under a mile from Junction 18 of the M25 motorway.

The School



The School comprises Ruspini House Pre School for boys and girls aged 2 to 4, Cadogan House Pre Prep and Prep Department for girls aged 4 to 11, the Senior School, and Hind House Sixth Form Centre.

The School currently has 930 pupils, of whom 62 are in the Pre School, 236 are in the Pre Prep/Prep Department, 466 in the Senior School and 166 in the fully comprehensive Sixth Form.

The School also welcomes boarders from both the UK and overseas, who are housed in three comfortable boarding houses.

Entry is by examination/interview at 4+, 11+, 13+ and 16+, with a few girls joining us at other times if places are available.

Our public examination results are consistently impressive, and around 99% of girls leave RMS to take up places at university, 92% at their institution of first choice.

The School



Life at RMS is centred around much more than just academic success, and the School is well known for its exceptional pastoral care, the wealth of extra-curricular opportunities it offers, and its commitment to a values-based education.

RMS strives to enable each and every pupil, regardless of background, to develop to the full their academic, personal and creative potential. We offer a nurturing, inclusive and supportive environment where each child is esteemed as an individual, capable of success. Education here is founded on core moral values that encourage pupils to be compassionate and tolerant; to do their personal best; to grow in integrity and responsibility and so ultimately to approach adulthood with inter-personal skills that reflect both empathy and self-confidence.

Our most recent inspection reports concluded that our provision is outstanding in all areas, and *“Pupils make excellent progress in reaching high academic standards that are enhanced by lively and encouraging teaching “* (ISI Report). The report also commends the school on *“the excellence of pupils’ personal development (which) demonstrates the School’s achievement of its aim to provide a culture that celebrates personal success and values qualities such as courtesy, dignity and kindness”*

Please explore our school [website](http://www.royalmasonic.herts.sch.uk) further for more information about life at RMS

Teaching Staff Testimonial



The adage 'time flies when you are having fun' certainly applies to the time I have spent at RMS. I came to the RMS History Department as an NQT in September 2009 and it was a significant move in more ways than one. Having been based in the North for my entire life I suddenly found myself in new surroundings... beautiful ones at that!

I was given History classes in each Key Stage Group and received astounding support from my department in order to allow me to provide the students with a high quality of teaching. This included being sent on valuable INSET courses and having regular 'in house' meetings to discuss teaching, assessment methods and managing my time as a History teacher, form tutor alongside the other responsibilities that I hold. My Head of Department is very supportive and, once settled with my teaching, offered me the position of KS3 Co-ordinator, which allowed me, amongst other things, to examine our schemes of work and adapt them in order to enhance student's learning.



I have also been able to take over the running of one of our department's overseas trips: The Battlefields Trip to France and Belgium. This trip is a popular one in Year 9 and often has between 35 to over 40 students.

Testimonial

Within the wider school community I have also been encouraged to take part in working parties and enjoy being an active member of the Literacy working party and the WW1 Commemorative Committee. The support I received as an NQT and ever since has been instrumental in giving me the confidence to enjoy my teaching in History and also explore other extra-curricular opportunities within the School.

During my first year at RMS I became an EPQ supervisor and this allowed me to work outside of my department and integrate further within the School community. I thoroughly enjoy academic research and this course was of great interest to me given the opportunities it provided students to explore their passions. I was fortunate enough to be considered for the position of skills teacher for this course and have subsequently taken on the role of Joint Centre Co-ordinator for the EPQ. This opportunity has allowed me to take more of a role in the organisation and undertaking of this course and provided me with greater insight into managing teams of students and supervisors.

Towards the end of my first year at the School I was also tempted by the extra responsibilities that were advertised, notably the Assistant G&T Co-ordinator. This has involved working with Neil Young on monitoring, evaluating and enhancing the provision of support for our more able students across departments within School and has been a very useful and enjoyable experience. Our role has seen us set up of the weekly club 'Aim for the Stars', which allows us to meet with students from all age groups to discuss their interests.

In addition, my role as Joint EPQ Centre Coordinator has allowed me to work collaboratively with colleagues to create an RMS version of the EPQ for Years 7 to 9 in order to allow students to go beyond the curriculum and explore their interests whilst honing useful research and writing skills. As well, I have been asked to provide INSETs on G&T provision, sharing best practice and have also spoken at RMS Teachmeets on literacy and developing independent learners.

I was very fortunate to begin my teaching career at RMS. The students and staff are superb to work with and the School community is supportive, productive and creative and I am certain that this combination has given me the confidence to develop professionally.

Mrs Hester Eccles, Teacher of History

The Department

Welcome to the Religious Studies Department at RMS. We are a successful and dynamic department, and we are very proud of a recent GCSE results; 93% of girls were awarded Grade A* or A, and 100% Grade A*/A/B.

Mrs Elder (Head of Department) and Mrs Baron are our teachers of Religious Studies

We help to stretch the girls through Philosophy Club, a student-driven discussion group, which covers a wide range of topics such as "What is beauty?", "Does an after-life exist?", "Which has more power - love or hate?", and other ethical dilemmas.

We also take part in national competitions, such as Nature's Art in Heaven and various essay-writing competitions, such as the Heythrop Essay Prize.

KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7 TO 9)

All girls are taught Religious Studies from Year 7 to 9. This covers an introduction to the six major world religions of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, whilst encouraging the students to reflect upon their own world view. They also receive an introduction to religious approaches to environmental ethics, philosophy of religion and a range of different normative ethical theories.

KEY STAGE 4/GCSE (YEARS 10 AND 11)

In Year 10, we study ideas about God, such as evidence for his existence, the problem of suffering and evil in the world, the nature of God and how he interacts with the world. We also look at aspects of religious experience, including how God is revealed and miracles. We study different attitudes towards life after death from religious and non-religious perspectives. The final unit 'Science and Religion' allows us to explore the different approaches to the origins of the universe and life.

In Year 11 we move onto moral issues, exploring religious responses to contemporary issues and the problems that our world faces

The study of Religious Studies at GCSE does not require any personal religious faith. It will teach students valuable thinking, writing and debating skills, as well as encouraging the use of empathy and evaluation as students learn how to construct arguments.

Person Specification

ESSENTIAL QUALITIES

Qualifications

- Degree (or equivalent)
- QTS (prior to commencement of employment)
- A commitment to self-improvement, and evidence of continuing professional development

Knowledge & Experience

- A superb classroom practitioner and form tutor
- Ability to explain concepts and applications to pupils
- Understanding of Self-Evaluation
- Evidence of sound skills in ICT and an awareness of how to maximise its use to aid learning

Personal Qualities

- A commitment to the extra-curricular life of the school
- An enthusiasm for teaching and a genuine interest in learning strategies
- An interest in the development of young people and their needs
- The ability to form good relationships with colleagues and supportive but appropriate relationships with students
- Ability to see change as an opportunity
- Drive and energy
- A commitment to high standards in personal work
- The ability to work under pressure
- Good organisation
- A record of good health and attendance and smart personal appearance
- Able to provide a positive role model for students
- Willingness to be involved in extra curricular activities
- Clear educational vision

Job Purpose

To be responsible for the delivery of the department's Scheme of Work in accordance with the practices and policies of the department and of the school to those pupils for whom s/he has been allocated teaching responsibility.

A full job description can be [downloaded here](#)

The Benefits



We are pleased to provide our teaching staff with numerous benefits in addition to a generous salary scale. These include:

- teachers' pension scheme
- accommodation if appropriate and available
- enhanced grading structure
- personal accident insurance
- death in service scheme

RMS also offers generous holiday entitlements, a range of work-life balance policies, and opportunities for continued professional and personal development. Other benefits and discounts include:

- preferential rates for membership of the School Sports and Fitness Centre and swimming pool
- school fee discount – subject to terms and conditions of the policy
- free car parking
- free lunch time meal

The Application Process



Please complete our Application Form (which can be downloaded from our website www.royalmasonic.herts.sch.uk) and a covering letter outlining your suitability for this position.

Applications would be welcome as promptly as possible and the closing date for applications is 9.00am on Monday 20th November 2017. Please note that CVs are not accepted.

Interviews for successful candidates will be held shortly after the closing date.

Applications (via email, post or fax) and any enquiries should be addressed to :

Miss Tyler Lawton
HR Administrator
The Royal Masonic School for Girls
Rickmansworth Park
Rickmansworth
Herts WD3 4HF
Fax: +44 (0)1923 725762
Email: hrrecruitment@royalmasonic.herts.sch.uk

The Royal Masonic School for Girls is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be asked to apply for enhanced disclosure.

The Royal Masonic School for Girls is an equal opportunities employer. The Royal Masonic School for Girls is a Private Limited Company, Registered No 1339867 England, Registered Charity No 276784



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