

HEAD OF HISTORY & POLITICS

APRIL/SEPTEMBER 2022

Whitgift is one of Britain's leading independent day and boarding schools for boys aged between 10 and 18 years with approximately 1550 pupils and over one hundred boarding or flexi-boarding pupils. The School, which was founded in 1596 by Elizabeth I's last Archbishop of Canterbury, John Whitgift, is one of the oldest in Croydon and enjoys facilities of outstanding quality, amongst the best available nationally. It is set in an attractive 48-acre parkland site in South Croydon with excellent links to London, Surrey and the south coast.

The Vacancy

An inspirational and committed Teacher of History is required to lead a highly successful, dynamic and innovative department at an exciting moment in the school's evolution. Whitgift has mapped out a clear vision of where the School wants to be by 2025 in which the academic and intellectual development of the pupils is the top curricular priority. A number of initiatives are already under way throughout the school to develop the key areas of independent project work, collaborative working, digital literacy and life-long learning. Underpinning the Whitgift vision is a commitment to global citizenship and social responsibility, combined with the explicit promotion of diversity and inclusion in all areas of school life. The History department is playing a major role in a number of these initiatives, and the Head of Department will have the opportunity to help shape the future academic direction of the school.

Complementing this vision and ambition, the successful candidate will have a proven track record of outstanding teaching, as well as the management skills to get the best out of a large department. The position would suit either an experienced Head of Department looking to lead a larger department or someone looking to take on their first management role.

Knowledge or experience of the IB curriculum and/or A Level Politics will be an advantage, but not a prerequisite for the post.

The position reports to the Deputy Head, Academic.

The History Department



The vibrant, energetic and dedicated History team comprises 10 full-time members of staff; six members of the department hold other significant school responsibilities (including two members of the Senior Leadership Team).

The History Office benefits from a wide range of shared teaching resources including textbooks and an extensive departmental library. IT is a particular focus of current development: each member of staff has their own school laptop, we employ the school network

extensively to share resources, and increasing use is made of the school VLE and media server in classroom teaching.

Class sizes in the Sixth Form average 12 students; GCSE classes are usually around 20 students and Lower School classes contain an average of 23 pupils. Junior classes are taught in a dedicated classroom block, but most other History and Politics lessons are accommodated in six specialised classrooms equipped with digital whiteboards.

Curriculum

History is studied by all pupils up to Year 9 and is designed to instil interest in students throughout the School. Starting in Year 7, our pupils study Medieval History from the Norman Conquest to the late 15th century. Year 8 covers the Tudors and Stuarts in the first term, moving on to study aspects of Britain's economic, social and imperial development in the 18th and 19th centuries.



In Year 9, the focus is on European and World History c.1890-1945, with the origins, course and aftermath of the two world wars forming the backbone, with the role of women in the First World War a particular focus. Pupils also study America's 'golden age' in the 1920s and the Civil Rights movement from 1950-1965. There is also, where permitted, a fascinating three-day World War One Trip to France and Belgium for this year group.

In the Upper School approximately 150 pupils each year choose History at GCSE, where we follow the Cambridge International Examinations (Modern World History) specification, studying the 20th Century: International Relations since 1919 and a depth study of Germany 1918-1939. We encourage students in their learning of History and in Year 11 a five-day residential trip to Berlin is organised.

At any one time, approximately 110 students in the Sixth Form will be studying History for A Level or International Baccalaureate. We teach the Edexcel A Level specification, covering Russia 1917-91, Mao's China 1949-76 and The British Experience of Warfare c.1790 to 1918. For the IB, we follow Route 2 (Late Modern period), with candidates prepared for papers in International Relations 1918-36, Wars and Dictatorships in the 20th century, and European History 1815-1939.

The Department also offers a popular and successful A Level Politics course with 30-40 pupils in 2 or 3 sets in each year group. We follow the Edexcel specification of UK Politics in the Lower Sixth and US Politics in the Upper Sixth.

The department has a consistent record of Oxbridge success and we regularly send a large number of students to study History, Politics and related disciplines at university; the ability to inspire, enthuse and support such pupils is a pre-requisite.

Academic Results

Examination results are outstanding, and History is a popular subject at GCSE, A Level and the International Baccalaureate.

		2021	2020	2019
GCSE	9-7	90%	90%	88%
A Level	A*- B	100%	100%	98%
IB (Higher Level)	7 - 6	100%	100%	91%
Politics	A*-B	100%	100%	94%

Co-Curricular Activities

The Department is proud of its extensive range of co-curricular activities which are designed to instil a love of history in students throughout the School. There are active Junior and Senior History & Politics Societies run by the pupils with staff involvement. A wide range of trips and visits are offered ranging from Politics tours of the Houses of Parliament to multi-day visits to the First World War battlefields and Sixth Form trips to the USA and Russia. Day trips to St. Albans, the Tower of London and Hampton Court are also organised for our younger pupils.

Contact

If you have questions regarding the vacancy or would like to know more, please feel free to contact Mr Mark Brown, Senior Tutor, on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail mjb@whitgift.co.uk.

Conditions of Service

The salary will be on the Whitgift Foundation scale (substantially above national scale) according to qualifications and experience. Accommodation may be available. Assistance is offered towards removal expenses etc., up to £1,000 in total.

Staff are required to make a significant contribution to the co-curricular life of the School and this is reflected in the salary offered. A strong commitment to the pastoral and house system is also anticipated.

We offer a generous salary and benefits package including membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (including Life Assurance cover), Employee Discount Club, discount on school fees for the Foundation Schools (permanent posts only), membership of a healthcare plan plus a range of family-friendly benefits and season ticket loan.

We welcome applications from all parts of our community as we aspire to attract staff that matches the social and cultural diversity of our student intake.

For further information and an online application form, please visit www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies.
For any general queries, please telephone the School Human Resources Department on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail SchoolHR@whitgift.co.uk.

Applications will be reviewed daily and interviews may occur at any stage after applications are received so we invite interested candidates to apply as soon as possible.

As a result of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, employers now have to verify that new recruits who are not British Nationals are eligible to work in this country. Therefore, any applicant who is offered an interview will be asked to provide official documentation to verify their ID, address and right to work in the UK. It is also normal practice for the School to ask for original qualifications and professional membership documents as detailed on their application.

Whitgift School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service.

November 2021