

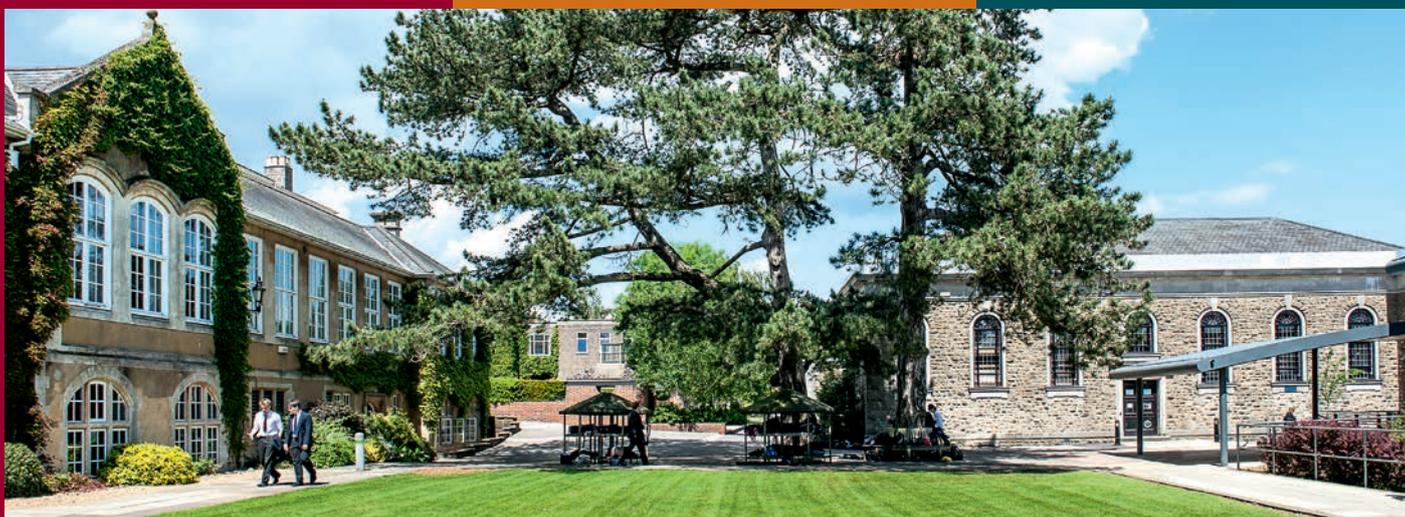
# SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

## JOB DESCRIPTION



### Appointment of Teacher of English from September 2018





## The School

Founded in 1432, Sevenoaks enjoys a global reputation as a centre of academic excellence and a flagship school for the International Baccalaureate. A co-educational day and boarding school, it offers a stimulating, intellectually demanding and balanced education for pupils from the age of 11 to 18.

Inspiring facilities, together with expert, enthusiastic and imaginative teaching, provide rich opportunities for students participating in lessons, and a wide variety of sports and the performing arts.

The school's international make-up and outlook promote the principles of tolerance and open-mindedness. About 350 pupils board in the seven boarding houses, and students originate from some 40 countries worldwide.

In 2013 the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) awarded Sevenoaks School the rare accolade of 'Exceptional' for its students' achievement. Sevenoaks was also the highest performing fully co-educational school, and the one with the largest cohort, in *The Sunday Times* Parent Power's top 50 fee-paying schools for the IB in 2015. In November 2017 we were, for the second time in 10 years, awarded *The Sunday Times* Independent School of the Year.

This excellence is achieved by bright, motivated students, inspired by highly qualified and dedicated teachers in well-resourced classrooms.

The school has over 150 teaching staff, well supported by a large number of ancillary staff. A professional pastoral team of specialist tutors, boarding house staff and year heads give care and guidance, promoting student welfare and happiness. The mutual respect shared by students and staff generates a harmonious and purposeful atmosphere.

## The Campus

The school is situated in the Kent market town of Sevenoaks, and has a prime position at the top of the High Street. The 100-acre site, which includes a number of listed buildings, is beautifully landscaped and adjoins the medieval deer park of Knole. London is only a 30-minute train journey away. Gatwick International Airport is also only 30 minutes away, and there are good transport links to other London airports and the Channel Tunnel.

The school's first-class resources and facilities include a superb sports centre (The Sennocke Centre) opened in 2005. A state-of-the-art performing arts centre (The Space), which provides four outstanding venues for music and drama, was opened in 2010. The next major projects currently underway are a Science & Technology Centre and a Sixth Form Global Study Centre, which will open in 2018, and new boarding accommodation which should be ready for occupation by 2019.



## Teaching at Sevenoaks School

Teaching here is immensely rewarding: we work in high-performing teams towards a shared endeavour. Everyone appointed to teach at Sevenoaks School is expected to actively engage in all aspects of our broad and well-rounded education.

We want all our pupils to enjoy their subjects, to be inspired by their teachers and to become independent, lifelong learners. Teachers are enthusiastic and well-qualified graduates. We have an exceptionally lively, talented and committed staff body. We welcome applications from experienced teachers and newly-qualified teachers but can also provide training including PGCE for those joining the profession at whatever stage. All new staff undertake a comprehensive induction programme. Sevenoaks is committed to supporting its staff with training and professional development tailored to staff needs and interests.

All teachers are involved in proactive pastoral care. All teachers participate in the co-curriculum and, as our outreach activities expand, contribute to our work with local pupils and schools. Teachers at Sevenoaks are innovative and forward-thinking and over 60 staff are involved in the Institutes of Teaching & Learning, Higher Education & Professional Insight, and Service & Social Entrepreneurship, shaping further development and initiatives for students and staff alike.

## Curriculum

At every stage, we offer a broad, deep and integrated curriculum. Every pupil is encouraged to be curious, creative, critically aware, and to develop his or her passion and talent to the full. Life is fast-paced, dynamic, and expectations are high. At the same time, the school seeks to cultivate in its pupils the habit of reflecting on their learning, and on how they contribute to society more broadly. Ambitious and principled, confident and compassionate, our pupils are prepared for leadership and teamwork in the wider world.

Regular assemblies, tutor group meetings and a programme of talks help the social and emotional understanding in our pupils, and a long tradition of voluntary service and local and international charity projects advances a core set of values across the student body.

In order to support our ethos and aims, we have developed a number of Sevenoaks School Certificate courses (SSCs), which students take instead of GCSEs, in English Literature, the Expressive Arts and Technology. The SSCs (which are fully recognised by UCAS) give teachers the independence and creative scope to shape a richly satisfying curriculum. In Years 9-11 all students take courses in critical thinking developed by the school – *Critical Perspectives* and *Ten Ideas That Changed the World*. The Middle School Diploma, launched in Year 9 in September 2017, recognises the learning that takes place



both within and outside the classroom and seven core values: creativity, independent learning, critical thinking, international understanding, collaboration, self-awareness and social responsibility.

All of the 400-plus Sixth Form students pursue the International Baccalaureate Diploma, a programme the school has delivered for nearly 40 years. The Diploma is the best preparation for university and for work in a world of global competition. Even more important, it genuinely develops a rich inner life in our students, opening their minds to connections and possibilities within and across the subject disciplines.

It is no surprise that our students leave Sevenoaks to study a wide range of courses in the UK and around the world. All 210 leaving students each year progress to the world's top universities, including up to 25% to Oxford and Cambridge, and 25 or more students to leading US and international universities. They do so with an enlarged capacity for independent thought and intellectual risk-taking, a strong appetite for learning, and equipped with the skills and personal qualities conducive to a happy and successful life.

## The English Department

The department comprises twelve full-time and four part-time members, and teaches every pupil in the school for the entirety of a Sevenoaks education. The faculty itself is generously resourced and attractively housed. Colleagues enjoy a wide range of special interests within the subject, and examination results are excellent at all levels. The sharing of ideas is strongly encouraged, and the atmosphere within the department is both scholarly and intellectual as well enthusiastic, friendly and supportive.

The department has evolved its own schemes of work for the first three years (Years 7-9), based upon the requirements of the National Curriculum. We choose not to set in English, as entry to the school is already highly selective. Years 10 and 11 study for IGCSE English Language, and we have pioneered our own rigorous, exciting, and internally examined but externally moderated Literature course, now accepted and recognised by UCAS.

In the Sixth Form, every student pursues the International Baccalaureate, where English is available either at Higher or Standard Level. In addition we offer a Standard Level Literature and Performance course, which combines elements of English and Theatre. The courses offer an exciting and dynamic range of opportunities for teachers of both traditional English and literature in translation.



Outside the classroom, the department extends students' experience of creative writing, literary lectures, reading groups, journalism, and debating. There are several author visits throughout the year. Drama constitutes a separate department in the school. For those who are keen to get involved, there are several productions every year in the superbly equipped Sackville Theatre. Given our proximity to London and its theatres, we undertake many play trips throughout the year.

The department enjoys regular successes at Oxbridge entry, while many students opt for the intellectual excitement of writing a 4,000 word IB Extended Essay on a literary topic of their choice – a unique experience, with individual teacher supervision, which student and teacher alike find terrifically fulfilling. With a tremendous variety of creative initiatives going on, a committed set of colleagues, and a clear plan for future development, this highly professional and passionately led department lies at the academic heart of the school.

## The Post

The successful candidate will be an enthusiastic and well qualified graduate. We seek applicants with enthusiasm and imagination, who are willing to be part of a team. The successful candidate will be expected to be able to teach across the year groups, though efforts will be made in the timetable to reflect an individual's

strengths. The new appointee can expect a considerable amount of Sixth Form teaching. He or she will help to develop a culture within the school that encourages reading, writing and the enjoyment of literature. We welcome applications from teachers new to the profession as well as those with teaching experience. The opportunity to train for PGCE may be available. A commitment to excellent pastoral care and enriching co-curricular and outreach activities is also expected.

## Information for applicants

Sevenoaks School has its own generous salary scale. Accommodation or relocation expenses may be available, and fee discounts for the children of members of staff are available (subject to the usual entry requirements). Further information about the school can be obtained from the school's extensive website: <https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/home>, including more about working at Sevenoaks <https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/about-us/vacancies/working-at-sevenoaks>

Applicants should complete the application form in full. Guidance for completion of the form is downloadable from our website. Note that Part 6 must show a complete history of employment, and should continue on a separate sheet of the application form if necessary. Please submit the completed application form, covering letter and



CV by post to:

The Personnel Department  
Sevenoaks School  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 1HU

Tel: 01732 467740; email: [pa@sevenoaksschool.org](mailto:pa@sevenoaksschool.org).

Applications should be submitted by midday on **Wednesday 7 February 2018**.

It is envisaged that interviews will take place from 19 February, but may take place earlier. The school retains the right to interview suitable applicants and appoint before the deadline.

The post holder has a responsibility to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young persons for whom he or she is responsible, or with whom he or she comes into contact, and will adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's Child Protection Policy Statement at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post the post-holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the school, he or she must report any concerns to the school's Designated Child Protection Coordinator or to the Head.