

21st March 2021

HEAD OF CLASSICS (YEARS 4 – 8) INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

THE SCHOOL

Westminster Cathedral Choir School (WCCS) is one of London's leading academic prep schools, and a choir school for the choristers of Westminster Cathedral. The School was founded in 1902 to provide boarding choristers to sing the daily liturgy in the new cathedral. In 1976 day boys were introduced and current numbers stand at two hundred and sixty-one boys, aged four to thirteen (Reception – Year 8). The twenty choristers receive major scholarships towards fees.

Westminster Cathedral Choir School is academically selective and prepares boys for leading senior schools at 13+, including City of London, Dulwich, Eton, Harrow, King's College Wimbledon, Marlborough, St Paul's, Tonbridge, Westminster and Winchester. Almost all choristers achieve major music scholarships. In 2017, WCCS opened a new Pre-Prep for boys from Reception to Year 3, which is now flourishing.

THE POSITION

WCCS is looking for an outstanding Head of Classics who can lead the teaching of Latin from Years 4 to 8 (and Greek in Year 7 and 8), including 13+ Common Entrance & scholarships. The position arises following the appointment of the current Head of Classics, Matthew Wright, to St Mary's Ascot, after five years' exemplary service.

Classics is thriving at WCCS: all boys study Latin from Year 4, and there are more than 20 boys who take Greek as an option in Year 7 and Year 8. Boys also study Greek mythology, which is very popular. In addition, throughout Year 6 boys undertake a broad study of the ancient world in all of their subjects, providing the Head of Classics with rich opportunities to collaborate with teaching colleagues. In their next schools, WCCS boys regularly pursue Classics to GCSE and A Level.

WCCS is a selective, central-London School: applicants should wish to work in a fast-paced environment, where academic, professional and parental expectations are high. The successful candidate will be fully supportive of the School's mission, Catholic ethos and traditions and set a positive, professional example to boys. The successful candidate's responsibilities are detailed below.

Teaching

- To lead the teaching of Latin to an exemplary standard to boys from Years 4 to 8, and Greek to boys in Years 7 & 8
- To maintain order, discipline and calm in class to ensure effective teaching and learning
- To develop appropriate schemes of work, available for inspection by the Deputy Head (Academic) and/or Director of Studies, which set out challenging and appropriately differentiated work for all pupils

- To integrate ICT into teaching and learning, available for inspection by the Deputy Head (Academic) and/or Director of Studies
- To develop cross-curricular links with other subjects as well as PSHCE/SMSCD
- To organise and/or attend curricular-enriching trips
- To produce wall displays which change regularly
- To mark pupils' class work and prep, in line with School policy
- To prepare thoroughly for ISI inspections

Administration

- To keep records of effort and achievement, in line with School policy
- To write reports as required, following stated protocols
- To liaise closely with the SMT as required
- To attend staff meetings as required, adhering to the procedures and protocols published in the staff handbook

Pastoral care

- To set and maintain clear expectations of behaviour in all classes and cover lessons
- To follow and support the School's stated policies on rewards and sanctions, anti-bullying and safeguarding
- To treat all pupils with equanimity
- To report all pastoral concerns to the Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Health & Safety

- To complete risk assessments as required
- To prepare for and respond to inspections of health and safety, internal and external

Personal conduct

- To welcome prospective parents and visitors into lessons (with the Head or a member of staff designated by him/her) at any reasonable time
- To maintain professional dress and appearance
- To maintain mannerly and professional spoken and written relationships with all colleagues, parents and pupils
- To be publicly supportive of the School's mission, aims and aspirations and Catholic ethos

Other

- To organise an annual overseas trip or to offer an extra-curricular activity, out of School hours, once a week during term time
- To be a Form Tutor if required
- To participate in appraisal meetings
- To participate in lesson evaluations by peers and the SMT, following the set protocols
- To attend INSET training as required
- To undergo any other training as reasonably required
- To cover staff duties/accompany games as required
- To attend whole-School Mass
- To follow all policies, protocols, procedures and regulations as stated in the staff handbook

Flexibility

This job description reflects the main responsibilities of the post. However, the post holder should be willing to undertake any other reasonable duties as required by the Head.

THE PERSON

WCCS is academically-selective; the successful candidate will enjoy working in an environment, where academic, professional and parental expectations are high. **The School will consider funding an exceptional candidate through a PGCE at Buckingham University.**

An understanding of central-London parents and the ability to work diplomatically with them are essential, as is the ability to speak and write clearly and convincingly. While we are serious about our work, we are less serious about ourselves.

The successful candidate will also have a keen sense of humour and proportion, and be adept at dealing with people, in all their variety.

SAFEGUARDING

WCCS is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers, referees and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

TERMS

This post is permanent full-time, subject to a twelve-month probationary period.

BENEFITS

The successful candidate can expect:

- an excellent salary
- membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

HOW TO APPLY

Candidates should complete the application form and email it with a brief (one page only) letter of application to the Head, Neil McLaughlan.

Mr Neil McLaughlan
Head
Westminster Cathedral Choir School
Ambrosden Avenue
London SW1P 1QH
Email lauger@choirschool.com

The closing date for applications is **Friday 9th April.**