



APPLICATION PACK

Enjoy teaching well at.....

Dartford Grammar School

An IB World School



Post: Head of Geography

Start Date: September 2018

Package: MPS/UPS + TLR 2b + LFA

Teachers' Pension

Childcare Vouchers

Free Gym Membership (BSC)

The post is a full-time permanent position.



National Support School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership



The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

An enhanced DBS check is required for all successful applicants.

ABOUT US

A learning community developing international citizens

Dartford Grammar School is a selective secondary academy for boys, which admits girls to its sixth form. There are six forms of entry to Year 7, and all of the students joining the school are from the top 25% of the ability range. The students come from Dartford, neighbouring towns and villages, and nearby London boroughs. The current roll is 1,485, including 625 in the sixth form.

Curriculum

The school provides students with a seven year innovative education programme, based on the philosophy of the International Baccalaureate Organisation. Dartford Grammar School has become the first British state school authorised to offer the IB Middle Years Programme to pupils in Years 7 to 9. Its sixth form programme is also exceptionally wide with courses leading to the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The IB courses are crucial to our ethos encouraging our students to be independent, creative and highly successful lifelong learners.

Students at Dartford Grammar School enjoy very high academic success. In 2017, and for the second consecutive year, more than 70% of GCSE grades were the equivalent of A*/A. Our Sixth Formers gained an average UCAS points score of 215 (new tariff). Almost all of Year 13 students proceed to university with more than 70% successful at Russell Group universities.

Ofsted Inspections

The school has been identified four times by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools (most recently in May 2011) as one of England's most successful schools and colleges, showing a sustained period of outstanding achievement.

Specialist Status

In September 1995, the school became one of the first two language colleges in the country. The school is committed to internationalism. While maintaining its high levels of strength in all curricular areas, the school is established as a centre of excellence for the learning of languages, offering tuition in ten. Following the 2008 Ofsted inspection the school was awarded Science as this third specialism and most recently achieved an additional Specialism Quality Mark in Sport.

The school is a leading Confucius Classroom, a leading Japan Foundation and Goethe Institute school and has been re-accredited with the International Schools Award at the highest level. Dartford Grammar School is an IB World School and the Sunday Times IB School of the Year 2017.

The school has recently been awarded 'Teaching School' status and works as a lead school across a local alliance of primary and secondary schools, providing additional professional development opportunities.

Buildings and Facilities

The school, founded in 1576, has occupied its present site since 1866. Additional buildings have been constructed since then, the major works in last 10 years being listed below:

2008	extension of sixth form centre adding five teaching rooms;
2009	the remodelling of the Mick Jagger Centre, to provide additional teaching rooms and new laboratories and a Food Technology suite;
2011	new sixth form study suite
2012/13	extended sixth form centre
2013/14	new science department
2013/14	new Key Stage 3 transition area
2014/15	new Performing Arts Centre and rejuvenation of part of the Hardy building
2015/16	new dining hall and additional laboratories
2017/18	new sixth form centre

Pastoral Support

The school has a strong pastoral system operating from Year 7 to Year 13. The school is divided into Key Stage units, and each year group has a Curriculum Manager who oversees all aspects of the students' development. The school provides 3 Higher Education Advisers and a specialist Careers Adviser.

Extra-Curricular Programme

The school is exceptionally rich in extra-curricular activities. It offers 16 sports and competes with others in at least eight of them each year. Teams regularly gain county, regional and national success, and many students gain representative honours at one or more of these levels. The Junior Athletics team are the current National Champions. The school achieves high standards in music, and has an orchestra, wind band, choir, chamber choir and many other ensembles. Drama productions are frequent. There are many other clubs and societies, with debating always a popular activity. The school's impressive programme of community service is regarded as a particular strength. The school benefits from many close links with Europe, China and Japan. There are regular overseas cultural and sports trips, and other international visits.

External Links

The school has a very active Parents' Association, which provides valuable assistance and support. The school has strong links with local industry and with Higher Education. It has extensive links with many other institutions, and is also part of the world-wide International Baccalaureate Organisation network.

What the School Offers Teachers

The school provides its staff with the experience of teaching able and well-motivated students in an environment with high expectations of behaviour and well-developed systems of teacher-support. The school has a national reputation for the quality of its programme of professional development. The programme includes much that falls within specific subject areas.

The school is committed to participation in initial teacher training. Other aspects include a course for newly-qualified teachers, preparation for middle management, development of existing middle managers and preparation for senior management. While the school's extensive programme of overseas visits give many staff international experience, the school ensures that its staff development has a further international dimension, for example in IB courses. Staff members have access to the school's excellent facilities for sport and the performing arts.

Becket Sports Centre and The Mick Jagger Centre for the Performing Arts

Out of school hours the facilities of both centres are shared with the local community. They are managed by school staff, reporting through independent management structures.

The Becket Sports Centre (currently being extended and improved) comprises a sports hall and fully equipped fitness studio, with a separate aerobics/training room, which has a sprung floor, allowing dance sessions to be held. The Mick Jagger Centre includes two auditoria (seating 200 and 350 respectively, both with retractable seating), 8 music practice rooms, dance studio, exhibition space, two music rooms and a Drama Studio. It is a base for 20 community organisations, and runs a small commercial programme attracting a range of talents and performers.

Website

Further details of the school, including breakdown of performance figures, can be accessed through: www.dartfordgrammarschool.org.uk

The Geography Department

Geography is a successful, popular and oversubscribed subject in both Key Stages 4 and 5 at Dartford Grammar School. The department consists of a 6 committed specialist teachers who work together effectively and enthusiastically to ensure that all students receive the optimal learning experience. The team of inspiring teachers motivate a very respectable number of students to continue the subject throughout their school careers and further, into higher education.

In Key Stage 3 students are taught geography within an integrated Humanities course which follows the Middle Years Programme. A brand new, stimulating and challenging course has been generated which aims to create an understanding of physical and human processes, their interaction and impact on the environment, with exemplars ranging from the local to the global scale. A variety of skills from the learner profile are exercised, in addition to geographical skills such as mapping and graphical development and analysis.

In Key Stage 4 students are studying the new AQA GCSE specification, which allow students to study contemporary geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigate the links between them. This includes units such as units on physical landscapes in the UK, the changing economic world and the challenge of resource management, in addition to a third 'skills' paper. Assessment is purely by examination.

In Key Stage 5 students study the IB syllabus. The main feature of the syllabus is the creation of an awareness of the spatial dimension in human activities and the dynamic nature of the relationship between people and their natural and social environment. Assessment is by examination and the submission of one Internal Assessment item, based on primary data collected in the French Alps. The IB empowers us to teach a wide range of stimulating and contemporary topics, including development, environmental sustainability, resource use, freshwater, extreme environments and globalisation.

The Geography Department is a robust team, who take collective responsibility for the success of the subject, and all members readily take an active part in decision-making. The department is richly resourced and teachers regularly and mutually share good practice. The department also has proven success in growing its own teachers and effectively supports new colleagues in a comprehensive induction programme.

The Department regards learning outside of the classroom with upmost importance, and the subject has a high profile within the school for its commitment to extra-curricular activities. Enrichment opportunities include local fieldwork in Dartford and Sevenoaks, visits to the Royal Geographical Society London, the London Docklands Museum and Kings College London, in addition to international visits to the USA, Iceland and the Alps. Extra-curricular activities include Geography Club, Geography in the News Club, and Geography Essential Skills Club.

We are seeking to appoint a passionate geographer to join the department and to contribute to its unrelenting pursuit of success. As the landscape is undergoing change for geography in schools, it is essential that the candidate is dynamic and uses an imaginative approach to their teaching. A readiness to lead extra-curricular activities in the school is essential.

ROLE PROFILE

Responsibilities as a Teacher:

- To teach assigned students.
- To participate in the development of appropriate syllabuses, materials and schemes of work.
- To assess, record and report on students' development, progress and attainment.
- If required, under the direction of the Curriculum Manager, to act as Form Teacher of an assigned group of students, and to carry out related duties.
- To carry out a share of supervisory duties in accordance with published lists.
- To participate in appropriate meetings with colleagues and parents relative to the above duties.

Principal Accountabilities:

- To agree and support the achievement of, challenging student progress targets to make a measurable contribution to whole school targets.
- To draw up, implement and monitor the progress of the Department Development Plan to ensure that it makes a significant contribution to the School Development Plan.
- To maintain a scheme of work to guide and support successful teaching, and procedures for monitoring and evaluating student progress, in accordance with the school's and Department's policies.
- To manage and develop staff effectively, and to advise on their deployment, resulting in a tangible impact on student learning in the subject.
- To review annually, the development and performance of the Department, in accordance with the procedures of the school self-evaluation policy.
- To manage effectively the budget allocated to the Department, and to ensure the efficient use of its resources.

Key Leadership Behaviours:

- Adaptability
- Achievement orientation
- Optimism
- Developing others
- Influence
- Teamwork and collaboration

Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- Exemplary performance as a classroom practitioner.
- High level of subject expertise.

NOTES

- 1 The responsibilities are subject to the general duties and responsibilities contained in the statement of Conditions of Employment.
- 2 This job description allocates duties and responsibilities but does not direct the particular amount of time to be spent carrying them out, and no part of it may be so construed.
- 3 This job description is not necessarily a comprehensive definition of the post. It will be reviewed at least once each year, and it may be subject to modification or amendment at any time after consultation with the holder of the post.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Completed application forms should be sent, by post, to the Headmaster, Mr W J Oakes, Dartford Grammar School, West Hill, Dartford, Kent DA1 2HW or by email, to Mrs A Dennett (HR Manager) adennett@dartfordgrammarschool.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 6th February 2018

Interview date: To be confirmed

The school may interview early in the case of an exceptional candidate.