



# Appointment of Modern Foreign Languages Teacher

**St John's College**  
Grove Road South, Southsea, PO5 3QW

An independent, co-educational, day and boarding school for ages 2-18

## **Background Information**

### **The School**

St John's College, Southsea is a busy independent day and boarding school for boys and girls. We take children into our Nursery from age 2, into our Junior School from age 4, and into our Senior School from age 11. The College also has its own thriving Sixth Form. At present there are c 567 pupils in the school as a whole, of whom 81 are boarders – the youngest of whom are in Year 5.

Academically, the College is a wide ability school, welcoming all children who will be able to benefit from the broad and balanced curriculum on offer. Our aim is to realise the full potential of each child, no matter what that may be. Our results are consistently excellent and we have recently topped the local value-added table for non-selective schools.

Of course, we do not believe that education should be limited to the academic curriculum. We also focus on identifying and nurturing other interests and talents, for instance in sports, the performing arts, technology and so on. The wide range of activities on offer is designed to enable and encourage children to experiment, to challenge themselves and sometimes even to surprise themselves.

The College is an inclusive school. True to the spirit and vision of our Founder, St John Baptist de la Salle, we welcome children from across a broad and diverse social range. We believe that this truly enriches the communal experience of all. Also many of our pupils come from overseas – and of course they bring to our community all the richness of their various cultural backgrounds.

Pastoral care is given very high priority at the College. Every child, day or boarding, is a highly valued individual member of a truly supportive community. Through our personal tutorial system, we aim to know our pupils very well and so are able to direct and assist them effectively in all aspects of their learning and personal development. Relationships throughout the school are mutually respectful and sustaining.

Though we are a closely knit community, we are also an outward-looking school, always aware of the need to equip our pupils to meet the challenges, present and future, of life beyond school. We are likewise always sensitive to our place within and duty towards the wider community. The College has a long tradition of service to its neighbours – local and further afield. We work hard to instil such a sense of duty in all our young people. We wish them to leave us prepared to be true citizens of the world.

The College is a Christian school in the Lasallian tradition. We seek, individually and in community, to live the truths of Christian faith in every aspect of school life. Gospel values are at the heart of everything we do, and we are always seeking to consolidate and develop this ethos. This does not mean, however, that we are narrow or exclusive in our attitudes. Quite the opposite, in fact. We welcome pupils and staff of any Christian denomination, those who adhere to other faiths, and those who have no formal religious affiliation. All are equally valued. All that we expect is that those who join us will share our core values and will actively support and help develop our ethos.

## **Academic Results in 2017**

At A Level the College achieved an overall pass rate of 93% (A\* - E). 40% of Year 13 secured places at the country's top ten and Russell Group universities, with 90% gaining entry to their preferred choice university.

Of the GCSE cohort of 75, 82% achieved five A\* - C grades including English and Maths, which was the College's best ever result in this category and a significant improvement on recent years. In addition, the A\* - A result improved to 33% (compared with 28% in 2016) and the A\* - B result increased by 9% to 62%.

## **Senior School**

Academic standards at the school have been rising steadily and applications have been steady in the last few years. Pupils enter the school either from St John's Junior School, other local Primary or Preparatory Schools or overseas.

Entry for Years 7–9 is by the school's own entrance assessment. The school has four form entry, accepting a wide range of academic ability.

Students accepted for entry at 16+ are required to have at least 5 GCSE passes at grade A to C with B preferred in their chosen subjects.

## **Junior School**

St John's Junior School occupies its own area within the school grounds and benefits from access to the Senior School amenities and some teaching from Senior School specialists.

Entry is non-selective. It is not obligatory for pupils to transfer to the Senior School, but the majority of pupils do so.

## **Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy**

Pastoral care in the school is very strong. All staff are involved in tutoring and contribute to the general pastoral care offered to the pupils. There is currently a chaplaincy team coordinated by the Head of Religious Studies.

## **Boarding**

Boarding is a central part of St John's College's ethos and foundation. There are six boarding houses, two for girls, three for boys and one mixed junior which accommodates pupils in Years 5-8. Each house has its own house parent and an assistant.

## **Information Communication Technology**

In recent times investment in IT provision has been an ongoing school priority. As a result the school benefits from a range of modern IT facilities including interactive whiteboards, four well equipped computer suites; all classrooms have their own computers with internet access. The school is developing the use of iPads as a teaching and learning resource.

There is a large staff workroom with excellent additional computer facilities.

## **Co-Curricular Activities**

We place a strong emphasis on co-curricular activities in both parts of the school. There is an expectation that our teachers support this in a proactive and positive way; non-teaching staff are also encouraged to participate wherever they can.

Our Music and Drama (both with good facilities) have developed well in recent years and the boys and girls choirs sing regularly in Cathedrals across the UK; the Chapel Choir has also

enjoyed a number of trips to Europe. Our sports provision is splendid - we have a Sports Hall and forty acres of playing fields at Farlington on the outskirts of Portsmouth and a small all-weather surface with lights on the College campus. We are very competitive in our major games (rugby, hockey, netball and cricket).

### **Staffing**

In managing the school's staff the Head of College is supported by the Deputy Head of Senior School and Head of Junior School and their Senior Management Teams. Heads of Year and Heads of Department also play key management roles. There are 65 academic staff in the whole College.

There are also over 70 Support staff in the school, some of them part-time, who report to the Bursar.

Staff are highly committed to their continuing professional development and attend INSET courses regularly. All staff take part in an annual staff review.

### **Professional Associations**

The Head of College is a member of the following:

- Boarding Schools Association (BSA);
- The Society of Heads; and
- ASCL.

The Head of the Junior School is a member of the following:

- Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools (IAPS);
- Boarding Schools Association (BSA); and
- The Society of Heads.

The Bursar is a member of the following:

- Independent Schools' Bursar's Association (ISBA).

The College was inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in 2014 and recently in January 2017. The ISI Inspection Reports are available on the College website:  
<http://www.stjohnscollege.co.uk/ISI-Inspection-Reports>

## **Post Details**

**Title:** Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

**Responsible to:** Head of MFL

### **Details of the appointment:**

The College is seeking to appoint an appropriately qualified and experienced teacher of Spanish with some French, to teach to GCSE and with a view to teaching to A Level. The successful candidate should possess strong language skills and should be a proven team player. The appointee will be expected to help drive the MFL department forward in the raising of academic standards and generating an interest and awareness of Languages across the College.

### **The Modern Foreign Languages Department**

The department currently offers French and Spanish. There are three language teachers. Modern Languages figure strongly in the school with a number of pupils studying two languages at GCSE. The department has a very good record of success in public examinations and also contributes to lessons in the Junior School.

### **Curriculum**

In the Senior School all pupils study Spanish in Year 7 in three or four sets. In Year 8 French is taken up as a second language by all, and is continued until the end of Year 9. In Year 10 the GCSE option blocks make it possible to study one or both foreign languages provided. Pupils are encouraged to take a Foreign Language at GCSE. We currently enter pupils for the Edexcel GCSE. Last year 90% of our pupils scored A\* to C Grades. At A Level we enter pupils for the Edexcel examinations.

### **Teaching**

The department uses the *Viva 1* digital textbook for Year 7 Spanish and is introducing these resources across Key Stage 3. We use *ActiveTeach Studio* and *Viva* digital textbooks to teach GCSE French and Spanish. At A Level we use *Tout Droit* and *Sigue*.

### **Resources and Accommodation**

The department teaches in a suite of three classrooms dedicated to Languages, which means that all three teachers have their own classroom base. Each classroom is equipped with a networked computer, data projectors, speakers and an interactive whiteboard.

### **Extra-curricular Activities**

The department runs annual language trips to Toledo in Spain and Brittany in France as well as a cross-curricular Christmas market trip to Aachen, Germany. We also have links with De La Salle schools in Barcelona and Paris and our students enjoy corresponding with their contemporaries in these schools. The department offers a regular programme of activities including hosting visiting drama companies, activities for gifted and talented pupils, celebrations of European and World Languages, and university visits.

## **The Appointment**

The College is seeking to appoint a well-qualified and enthusiastic person to teach Spanish with some French at GCSE and A Level.

The *key duties* of a Teacher of MFL are, within the context of their role:

1. to ensure that the curriculum is delivered efficiently;
2. to ensure that the department's resources are efficiently used and maintained in good order, and report any shortcomings to the Head of Department;
3. to ensure that pupil progress and attainment are effectively monitored, recorded and reported to parents in accordance with school policy;
4. to ensure that pupils are working to their potential, and to identify and report to the Head of Department potential difficulties/ challenges in this area;
5. to ensure that all recommendations relating to the teaching/learning of pupils with specific, additional or special learning needs are implemented;
6. to contribute to good working relationships and effective communication within the department;
7. to attend departmental meetings, parents' evenings and full staff Inset sessions;
8. to help maintain effective communications and good relationships with partner/competitor schools;
9. to undertake appropriate in-service training/CPD;
10. to ensure that all Health and Safety requirements are met and that pupils enjoy a safe environment for learning;
11. to maintain good order and discipline among the pupils.

*Other duties* of all subject teachers at St John's are:

- a. to contribute to the College's extra-curricular programme wherever possible;
- b. to contribute to departmental reports for the College's regular publications (Inform, Cover to Cover...);
- c. in every way to promote good communication and a sense of partnership between school and home;
- d. to take every opportunity to present the College positively to the wider community;
- e. to identify and act on all opportunities within the subject area to advance and develop the College's distinctive ethos;
- f. to support the management/leadership in the efficient organisation and conduct of the school, by ensuring that all whole-school policies are implemented and reporting any

significant concerns regarding this or any other matter relating to the welfare and/or education of the pupils;

g. to undertake any further tasks or duties which the Headmaster may reasonably assign.

***These responsibilities and duties will be subject to review from time to time, and may be amended/ added to following consultation with the Headmaster.***

***Please note that all teaching posts at St John's will involve from time to time significant commitments after school and at weekends.***

## **The Person**

The following key personal/professional experience, qualities, attributes and attitudes will be necessary for success in this post. *The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate some or all of these by reference to personal/educational/career history. Where this is not the case, he/she will clearly have the potential to develop or acquire them.* Please reflect on these carefully before submitting an application.

*Subject/role specific requirements:*

- relevant first or 2:1 degree;
- Qualified Teacher status/successful completion of PGCE;
- enthusiasm for, and developing expertise in teaching MFL at all levels,
- professional enthusiasm, direction and vision regarding the role of MFL in education, and a real commitment to the role outlined;
- organisational skills relevant to the role of class teacher, including:
  - the ability to grasp and contribute to the management of the day-to-day 'detail' of running an MFL Department,
  - excellent communication skills,
  - the ability to recognise when help, advice and support may be needed – and the willingness to seek and accept these;
  - (where appropriate) a record of appropriate continuing professional development/in-service training;

*Personal qualities and attitudes:*

- the understanding, co-operative skill and sustained willingness to work as part of a professional team that is diverse in background, expertise and experience;
- a thoroughly positive outlook, and an ability to engage constructively with challenges and change;
- a tolerant and inclusive attitude towards others – children and adults;
- the ability to cope effectively in potentially stressful situations;
- personal and professional loyalty;

- personal integrity of the highest order;
- a profound understanding of the nature and needs of young people of various ages;
- a willingness 'to go the extra mile' for the benefit of the pupils.

*The College is a Christian school in the Catholic Lasallian tradition. Whilst it is not essential for staff to have any specific denominational affiliation, or indeed to be confirmed Christians, we believe that working successfully and happily in the school would prove difficult for a person who held a negative view of religious faith and practice, whose social and moral views were at odds with what might be termed mainstream Christianity, or who found it difficult to take part positively in regular collective acts of worship.*

### **Details of the appointment**

1. This is a full-time, permanent post commencing in September 2018.
2. The offer of the post is subject to a prohibition check and statutory clearance by the Disclosure and Barring Service;
3. The appointment will be subject to two satisfactory references, one of which must be from the candidate's most recent employer. Although the post may be offered, the appointment cannot be confirmed until references are received;
4. Salary by negotiation and according to experience; and
5. You are expected to read and understand the College's Safeguarding Policy, seek clarification of any areas of uncertainty and attend Safeguarding training when requested. You must at all times to follow the requirements of the Safeguarding Policy.

Applications should be by letter and application form to the Head of College, Mr T Bayley, St John's College, Grove Road South, Southsea. PO5 3QW or by email to the Bursar's PA (Mrs H Williams): [recruitment@stjohnscollege.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@stjohnscollege.co.uk). The letter should outline why you seek the position and what you can bring specifically to the College.

The closing date for applications is **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018, 9am.**

Interviews are expected to take place the week commencing **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

If you would like further clarification of this or any other aspect of the College's expectations before applying, please contact the School Office in the first instance.

For further general information on the school, please visit: [www.stjohnscollege.co.uk](http://www.stjohnscollege.co.uk)