



CHIGWELL SCHOOL
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Chigwell, Essex, IG7 6QF
General Tel: 020 8501 5700
Direct Tel: 020 8501 5708
Fax: 020 8500 6232

From the Headmaster
M.E. Punt, M.A., M.Sc.

E-mail: mpunt@chigwell-school.org
www.chigwell-school.org

Head of Physics Job Description



Introduction

We are seeking to recruit a well-qualified, dynamic and inspirational teacher to join our highly successful school as Head of Physics. The successful applicant will be expected to teach KS3, iGCSE and A Level and in addition to the general teaching responsibilities, will lead and manage the teaching and learning of the physics department. This is a full-time permanent position required for September 2020.

Background

Founded in 1629 by Samuel Harsnett, the son of a Colchester baker who went on to become Archbishop of York, Chigwell School stands on its original site with the original school building still in use. However, whilst Chigwell of today is conscious of its long-standing history, it is a forward-looking, ambitious, co-educational independent school of 975 pupils aged four to eighteen. It enjoys excellent facilities, a dedicated staff, bright and hardworking pupils, and a site of 100 acres.

Chigwell School is located in the picturesque village of Chigwell just over ten miles from central London and on the Central Line. The extensive, beautiful grounds are close to the edge of Epping Forest and it is rare for a school to have so much space and yet be so close to the centre of the Capital. Most pupils are day pupils but in the Sixth Form, there is a small community of international boarders, roughly thirty from sixteen countries, and these live in four small boarding houses.



As well as being an academic school, Chigwell has the reputation for providing a rich and full education, with plenty of opportunities for all pupils who are enthusiastic, co-operative and able. Chigwell is a caring and friendly school, with a close sense of community, not least between colleagues. As the Good Schools Guide reports: *Academically, pupils are put through their paces but it all seems to be done in such a civilised and pleasant manner that you are more likely to hear pupils talk about opportunities and prospects than pressure and stress. "Anyone who wants to do well here, will do well" said one student, and I can't think of a nicer place to succeed."*

The School Development Programme

Over recent years, the School's facilities have been extensively developed in order to enhance the educational experience that pupils receive. The development programme has included the following additions:

- 2008 Wilson Building teaching block
- 2008 Floodlit AstroTurf pitch
- 2009 Junior School library extension
- 2010 Complete redevelopment of catering facilities
- 2010 Sixth Form coffee shop
- 2010 Harsnett's and Church House converted into boys' boarding houses
- 2012 The Old Chigwellian Club and land was incorporated into the school estate
- 2013 Pre Prep School built and opened
- 2013 Two new science labs created
- 2014 Drama Centre balcony extended to provide additional music and drama rehearsal space
- 2016 The Risham Sarao Sixth Form Centre was completed
- 2017 Extension of Dining Hall
- 2018 Renovation of the Chapel
- 2019 Extension of the Junior School

In the future we plan to:

- Develop the Sports Centre
- Further expand our provision of bursaries
- Expand our music facilities





The School

Some pupils join Chigwell School in Reception and there are two classes in each of the three Pre Prep year groups. A small number of children join the Junior School at 7+ (Year 3) and there are three classes in each of the KS2 year groups. At 11+ (Year 7), there is a further entry with four classes making up Years 7 to 11. Again, there is a small entry into the Sixth Form. Entry at each stage is selective and although there are three main sections to the School (Pre Prep, Junior School and Senior School) these sections work closely together and there is a common ethos running throughout.

There are over a hundred teachers and together with the support staff, there is a friendly, mutually-supportive atmosphere. We place considerable emphasis on life outside the classroom. Members of staff are expected to involve themselves fully in the life of the School, helping with games and other activities outside the classroom.

Chigwell warmly welcomes those of all faiths and no one will be excluded from appointment on religious grounds. Members of staff are expected to attend Chapel services and assemblies on a regular basis.





The Department

In Year 7 pupils follow a science course based on the National Curriculum. From Year 8 pupils study Physics, Biology and Chemistry as separate subjects where they are taught many of the underlying principles needed for the iGCSE course. From Year 9 onwards students follow the Edexcel iGCSE syllabuses with the vast majority being entered for separate sciences in physics, chemistry and biology.

A level Physics students follow OCR, as do the other A level sciences. Between twenty and thirty students per year group choose to study physics at A level indicating the strength and popularity of the subject in the Sixth Form. In the last three years, students have achieved an average in excess of 50% A*/A and over 80% at A*-B grades at A level. At GCSE in 2019, 80% of results were at grade 7, 8 or 9 with 25% at grade 9.

At Chigwell we promote independent thinking and learning, and there are many opportunities for pupils to develop a real interest in Physics beyond the specification requirements. Students are offered a large range of activities and experiences beyond the classroom. Trips to CERN, Diamond Light and a local hospital enhance the study of A level Physics whilst KS4 students have enjoyed studying the application of Physics at EuroDisney. A Level students regularly participate in Olympiad competitions with considerable success and often participate in the School's outreach programme by spending an afternoon in a local primary school presenting an aspect of physics to Year 5 or 6.

The science facilities are very good, the department having benefited from a number of refurbishments and extensions over the years. The physics department is very well equipped and practical classes are extremely well serviced by dedicated technicians. Chigwell School is increasingly using ICT as a teaching, learning and administrative tool. All laboratories and offices are networked. All laboratories are fitted with fixed board projectors and interactive whiteboards and a large variety of data logging equipment is readily available for use in the laboratory. All teachers receive a laptop computer.

The Science department, indeed the whole School, provides a very friendly and supportive working environment.



The Person

We are looking for a committed well qualified teacher who can communicate a passion and enthusiasm for the subject. Applicants should be able to demonstrate a structured approach to curriculum preparation and have experience of information technology in the teaching environment. Specifically, the successful candidate will be expected to:

- maintain and extend the high quality of delivery and teaching currently employed in the department
- Teach KS3, 4 and 5 and support pupils applying for Oxbridge
- Contribute to the pastoral and extra-curricular life of the School

As Head of Department, the successful candidate will be key to ensuring the high quality of teaching and learning. They will have responsibility for the promotion of the subject, the organisation and teaching of the material and the effective use of resources and for ensuring that learning is positive and effective.

Chigwell students are genuinely eager to learn. This post would suit an enthusiastic and talented teacher with experience, looking for career development. There is a well-established programme of professional development and the School will provide support as needed.

Salary: The salary on offer is competitive and based on National Pay Scales with a Chigwell enhancement.

Hours of work: This is a full time position during term time only.

Benefits

The School provides a very supportive working environment. There is a well-developed programme of professional development, pupils are enthusiastic, co-operative and able, and colleagues get on well together. There is a strong sense of community. Other benefits of working at Chigwell School include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A competitive salary with a Chigwell School enhancement • Strong commitment to professional development • Membership to the Teacher's Pension Scheme • Personal Accident Cover • Death in Service Cover • Generous fee remission for each eligible child • Complimentary lunch and break time refreshments during term time • Medical Centre on site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free use of School's sports facilities outside of the School day • Employee Assistance Support Programme • On site free parking and cycle racks • Use of School Library • A beautiful working environment- 100 acres site beautifully landscaped with a number of listed buildings • Good transport links by tube (Central Line), road and local bus routes. • A supportive community of highly motivated students and staff |
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Applications

Applicants should complete the teaching staff application form which can be accessed directly from our website: www.chigwell-school.org (Vacancies) and sent by email to the HR department at: hr@chigwell-school.org.

The Head of Physics, Mr Bryan Porter, will be happy to answer any questions; he can be contacted at the School by telephone 020 8501 5701 or by e-mail to bporter@chigwell-school.org

Closing date: 23rd February 2020 - early applications welcome

Applications will be considered upon receipt. Candidates will be contacted by telephone or email to attend interview if required. The School reserves the right to interview and appoint before the closing date.

Chigwell is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers, prohibition orders and enhanced DBS.

