

JOB INFORMATION

HEAD OF CLASSICS (Maternity Cover)

RHS is looking to appoint a talented and enthusiastic graduate to the post of Head of Classics with effect from September 2021 for fixed term maternity cover. It is anticipated that the maternity cover will run until the end of June 2022.

The successful applicant will join a vibrant and positive department where they will be well supported to complete the role. They will build on the excellent foundations in place for the delivery of classics at the Royal Hospital School and will give the department dynamic and creative leadership. A key aspect of the role will be to organise extra-curricular events and promote uptake of the classical subjects at GCSE and A Level. The Head of Classics reports to the Deputy Head (Academic). Whilst this post would ideally suit someone with teaching experience, we will consider applications from talented and ambitious NQTs.

Responsibilities of the Head of Classics are included in the generic job descriptions of Heads of Department and of Teachers at The Royal Hospital School and should be read in conjunction with the Head of Department Specification. All three of these are attached to this job description.

THE SCHOOL

The Royal Hospital School is one of East Anglia's leading Boarding and Day Schools, for approximately 720 pupils aged 11-18. The School occupies a magnificent 200 acre site in the Suffolk countryside just south of Ipswich. Situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty on the Suffolk coast, and just over one hour from London by train, the Royal Hospital School is an outstanding place to work and live.

The School selects pupils from a reasonably broad ability range and for this reason we focus on achieving a positive value added for all our pupils. Applications for places at RHS are extremely healthy, and the school has maintained its numbers well, despite the challenges of Covid.

The Royal Hospital School aims to provide academic excellence with an outstanding range of cultural and sporting opportunities. This is strongly backed up by first-class pastoral care and a commitment to leadership, service and spiritual awareness. We have an outstanding campus which provides a safe and secure environment. We have a talented and dedicated staff who believe in maximising each child's potential, fuelling their aspirations, firing their imagination and encouraging independence of thought. We seek to provide pupils with the skills and confidence to navigate their own lives and to think about where they will be at 25.

The School invests in both its infrastructure and staff across all spheres of school life. Major projects in the last five years include the refurbishment of the internal sporting facilities and the provision of a new strength and conditioning room, a fitness suite, dance and martial arts studio and the addition of a climbing wall. Further development of the School estate and the provision of top quality facilities for the education of our pupils remains a priority, and we have an established programme of rolling refurbishment for the school's academic areas. In the last five years the school has invested heavily in the provision of a robust network and individual devices for pupils and staff, and as an EdTech 50 school we are at the forefront of digital education. All members of the teaching staff have Microsoft Surfaces, and all pupils have a one-to-one mobile device as part of the School's mobile learning initiative.

MISSION AND AIMS

Our Mission is to understand each young person's strengths, to help them to make the right choices at the right time, navigating through their critical, formative years and ensuring their education becomes the foundation for their happiness and success.

Aims

The aims of the Royal Hospital School are:

- to develop intellectual curiosity and academic confidence;
- to enable pupils to grow into the person they wish to become, fulfilling their potential and prepared for life after school;
- to inspire leadership, adventure and self-discovery;
- to foster creativity and imagination;
- to provide a secure and nurturing community which promotes wellbeing, fitness and healthy competition;
- to instill the values of service, loyalty and commitment and uphold the School's unique and rich heritage;
- to cultivate a global outlook and environmental responsibility.

LAST INSPECTION

The School was inspected in January 2015 and received excellent ratings in all nine areas by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. The inspector commented:

"The School has clear aspirations for its pupils. It seeks to promote the attributes of inspiration, challenge and leadership in its pupils. Pupils are encouraged to strive for academic excellence and to endorse the values of service, loyalty and commitments whilst upholding the School's unique and rich heritage. The School encourages leadership and a sense of adventure and self-discovery. A high priority is the promotion of service both within the School and to the wider community. The School aims to foster creativity and imagination within a civilised, caring, Christian community, based on high standards of behaviour, mutual respect, trust and courtesy between staff and pupils. The School cultivates a global outlook and sense of environmental responsibility. It aims to encourage pupils to develop fitness, wellbeing and enter into healthy competition."

Candidates can read the full Report on the School's website at <http://www.royalhospitalschool.org/school-life/overview/#inspection-report>.

The regulatory compliance inspection in January 2018 found that the school was compliant in all areas.

TEACHING RESPONSE TO COVID

Following the closure of all schools in March 2020, RHS responded by moving to an entirely remote curriculum with teachers using Microsoft Teams to teach live lessons throughout the week. In September 2020 we returned to the classroom with all staff using a combination of Microsoft OneNote and MS Teams to deliver lessons. Pupils work digitally or on paper, but submit their work digitally via OneNote. We continue to deliver hybrid lessons as some of our international pupils have remained overseas. Although we look forward to all pupils being back in school, we will continue to make the most of our technological advances and expect to continue using OneNote across the school next academic year.

THE CLASSICS DEPARTMENT

The department is currently staffed by three specialist teachers, two of whom occupy within the wider school community: one is Director of Learning, and the other is Head of Academic Challenge and Oxbridge Coordinator. Quality of teaching and learning in the department is excellent, and pupils thrive in the supportive environment. This is an excellent opportunity for a passionate Classics Teacher to gain experience in a Head of Department role in a department that is achieving well.

The department is based in two dedicated classrooms with an adjoining office which is large enough also to work in, although the Head of Classics also has access to an office. Both rooms contain computers and network access, as well printing facilities and recently upgraded projectors. The department has recently run successful trips to both Greece and the Bay of Naples and has had considerable success in recent years in the annual Latin and Greek speaking competitions, as well as having pupils be commended in Oxbridge essay competitions. A key role of the incoming Head of Classics will be to maintain and even expand this co-curricular provision in order to promote classical study beyond the classroom.

THE CURRICULUM

All pupils in Year 7 study classical civilisation on a period a week, looking at Greek and Roman mythology, slavery, entertainment and history. All pupils in the school then take Latin in Year 8. As they enter Year 9, pupils are advised and guided by their teachers as to which classical subject is best suited to their skills, as they consider options for their Year 9 studies. Whilst not compulsory at GCSE, all pupils are encouraged to take a language at GCSE, and Latin is considered a language for these purposes.

Numbers taking Latin at Year 9 vary from year to year, but the norm is to have around 30 pupils taking up the Latin option. These numbers are often swelled by the Year 9 intake from prep schools. Similarly, classical civilisation in Year 9 is proving to be popular. Taking classical civilisation in Year 9 is not a pre-requisite for the study of classical civilisation at GCSE.

At GCSE, pupils are able to continue with Latin if they have studied it in Year 9, and are able to take classical civilisation even if they have no prior study. Pupils are able to take both classical subjects if they so desire, and there are a handful of pupils who do. For both Latin and classical civilisation, RHS follows the OCR GCSE courses. Numbers at GCSE vary from year to year, with the current Latin GCSE class comprising 19 pupils in Year 11 and the classical civilisation class made up of 10 pupils.

Until recently, the department followed the Cambridge Latin Course throughout Years 8-9, although this was recently reviewed and changed, with pupils now following a course created by members of the department. Currently the literature studies at GCSE are taken from the Cambridge Anthology, but it would certainly be possible to use the Oxford Anthology in the future. For A Level classical civilisation, the department at present teaches the 'World of the Hero', 'Democracy and the Athenians' and the 'Greek Art' units.

APPLICATION PROCESS/APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

Applications should be made on the *RHS Application Form* enclosed, be accompanied by a letter (no longer than one side of A4) giving reasons for applying for the post, and be sent to Mr. Simon Lockyer, Headmaster, Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP9 2RX (Email: recruitment@royalhospitalschool.org). **(*Note that a C.V. will not be accepted in lieu of a fully completed Application Form).**

Further details of the Royal Hospital School can be found on our website: www.royalhospitalschool.org

The closing date for applications: 1200 noon 20 April
Interviews: 27/28 April

RHS is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Employment is subject to satisfactory references and an Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check.