



Assistant Head Teacher

Personal Development

Location: Gran Canaria

Start date: September 2025



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing interest in the Assistant Head Teacher (Personal Development) position at Canterbury Secondary School. We are delighted to invite candidates who share our commitment to fostering personal growth and wellbeing for all students.

At Canterbury School, we are dedicated to providing a supportive and enriching environment that prioritises both academic excellence and personal development. Our ethos is built on the values of friendship, responsibility, respect, and unity. We strive to inspire our students to become well-rounded individuals who are equipped to navigate the challenges of an ever-changing world.

As the Assistant Head Teacher (Personal Development), you will play a pivotal role in shaping the school's pastoral systems and ensuring they are aligned with our vision for student success and wellbeing. Reporting to the Head of Secondary, you will lead and manage the Heads of Key Stages, promoting student leadership, safeguarding, and a strong sense of community. Your strategic oversight will be instrumental in the development of key areas such as careers education, personal development programmes, and pastoral interventions.

We are looking for a leader who is passionate about creating a positive school culture, has a proven record of improving student outcomes, and is skilled at managing change and inspiring others. The successful candidate will bring integrity, resilience, and a collaborative spirit to our leadership team.

If you are excited about this opportunity to make a significant impact on the personal development and wellbeing of our students, we encourage you to submit your application.

Thank you for your interest in joining Canterbury School. We look forward to learning more about your vision and passion for education.

Mark Fleet

Incoming Head of Secondary (starting April 2025)

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

In 1972, Mrs. Beryl Pritchard founded Canterbury School with a vision to make British education accessible to all, thereby opening new opportunities for the Canarian community. Canterbury School began as a modest nursery with just seventeen children taught by Mrs. Pritchard herself. It was the first institution on the island to offer British education to Spanish nationals and has since flourished into the largest English-speaking school in Gran Canaria, now serving over one thousand pupils from pre-nursery to pre-university levels.

Beyond her role at Canterbury School, Mrs. Pritchard's active contributions have strengthened educational ties and enriched the British school community across Spain. Committed to sharing British education, she was one of the first members of the National Association of British Schools in Spain (NABBS), and in 2019, she was honoured with the prestigious 'Medalla de Oro' (Gold Medal) in recognition of her unwavering commitment and positive impact on education in the Canarian community.

Building on this foundation, Canterbury School remains dedicated to fostering a dynamic learning environment that continues to inspire and broaden the opportunities for future generations of pupils. As we move forward, her legacy continues to guide us toward progress, innovation, and a positive impact within the Canarian educational landscape and the broader community of British international schools.





ETHOS AND VALUES

Our vision is to create a unified learning community that inspires all involved to make a difference, through being a school which encourages a culture of “can do”, challenge and care. We develop collaboration through strong relationships and clear communication. We believe in every child’s capacity to learn, and we challenge and support pupils to be independent and confident learners in equal measure.

Our commitment extends beyond academic knowledge and skills; we place a high emphasis on personal, social, and emotional development. We nurture the core values of unity, responsibility, respect, and friendship, ensuring that our pupils grow into well-rounded individuals who will positively contribute to society.

OUR COMMUNITY

A deep sense of community spirit is intrinsic to the Canterbury experience. Relationships across the school are founded on the principles of trust and accountability. We are committed to cultivating a community where bound by mutual care and respect, positive relationships flourish, and the enjoyment of shared experiences is the norm.

This is made possible, in part, by a supportive and engaged network of families. With over thirty nationalities, ranging from Spanish-speaking Canarians to British, Chinese, Indian, Korean, Russian, French, Dutch, Italian, and Canadian, we are fortunate to have a global community with diverse backgrounds that enrich our perspectives and deepen our cultural appreciation.

It's not uncommon for our alumni to enrol their children. This continuity has allowed some of our educators the unique privilege of guiding and inspiring two generations within the same family, fostering a legacy of love for learning in a warm and familial environment.

Our staff comprises of enthusiastic, highly qualified professionals dedicated to fostering and promoting keen learners, understanding the importance of this in helping our pupils grow into motivated individuals. While some of our teachers have recently joined us from the U.K., many are permanent residents, contributing to a balanced mix of fresh perspectives and seasoned experience. Many of our staff members have dedicated significant years of service to Canterbury School, further enriching our community with their wisdom and commitment.





GROUNDS AND FACILITIES

At Canterbury School, we are privileged to have prime locations across the island, that enhance our educational mission. Our institution is spread across three distinct sites, housed within five separate buildings.

Our infant department in Las Palmas is situated within the historic and protected Milton House, an architectural gem designed by the renowned Canarian architect Miguel Martín Fernández de la Torre. Nestled in the charming neighbourhood of Ciudad Jardín (Garden City), this distinguished building is a testament to the late 19th-century British settlers who left an indelible mark on the town's economic life and architectural style. Today, Ciudad Jardín stands out in Las Palmas for its unique blend of single-family homes surrounded by gardens, offering an idyllic environment for our youngest learners to flourish.

The San Lorenzo campus, our most extensive, is set against the backdrop of the serene Canarian countryside, just a 15-minute drive from the urban centre. This site, once a banana plantation, now houses the Primary, Secondary, and Sixth Form departments, along with the administrative hub. The campus offers a tranquil setting and specialized amenities, including a theatre, library, art studio, five science labs, three ICT suites, two study areas, sports pavilion, gymnasium, and ample outdoor play areas.



Our infant-primary school in Maspalomas is located in the south of the island. Surrounded by a flourishing mango grove, our school community not only enjoys the natural setting but also gets to savour the mangoes grown on the plantation.

As our pupils from Maspalomas advance to Secondary education, they transition to the San Lorenzo campus in the north. Despite the geographical distance, we foster a unified spirit of learning and community across our campuses. We facilitate excursions between the Primary department at San Lorenzo and the Maspalomas campus, which boasts its own water park. These reciprocal visits enrich the pupils' experience and ease the transition for those moving up from the South.

With one of the most expensive educational infrastructures on the island, we are able to provide a wealth of curriculum opportunities throughout the school and plenty of outdoor spaces in a favourable climate, in which pupils get to enjoy nature and broaden their horizons. Our extensive facilities are a living embodiment of our motto, where **learning** is vibrant, **growth** is nurtured, and every child is given the space to **thrive**.

SECONDARY DEPARTMENT

Our curriculum, based on the English National Curriculum, is adapted to our cultural context. As a British International School, we integrate British values with an international perspective, providing immersion in the English language, while emphasising Spanish language & literature and Canarian culture, as well as studying a third language from Year 7. Our school is accredited to offer both the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme and A-levels, and we serve as an examination centre for IGCSE and International AS/A Levels.

At Key Stage 4, we offer a diverse range of courses preparing students for the IGCSE exams. In addition to the core and elective subjects, our students study Spanish language & literature and social studies, as required by the Spanish educational system for ESO recognition. We help students select subjects that align with their interests and strengths through personalized tutor sessions, informative meetings with parents and an Options Fair.

At Key Stage 5, we deliver an education based on the content and skills of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP), designed to achieve high academic competence within a holistic curriculum that promotes research, social, communication, self-management, and thinking skills. We are the only school on the islands that offers the IB Diploma Programme in English. Additionally, we run an induction programme for Year 12 students and a career orientation week filled with activities, events, visits, and workshops. These are designed to offer support, guidance, and opportunities for personal, academic, and social development.



To stay current with international standards and prepare students for higher education, we embrace innovations in teaching and learning, particularly through the use of technology. Our curriculum is supported and enhanced by digital learning technologies, aiming to create responsible digital citizens. We use online platforms to support our students' learning, ensuring they have access to a wide range of resources and tools. We emphasise the importance of high-quality, relevant homework in student achievement, providing carefully planned assignments that challenge students to work independently. All homework assignments are posted on our online platforms, making them easily accessible.

Canterbury students consistently achieve good results that exceed national averages. Since Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards were first introduced in 2007, our students have consistently received awards for both GCSE and A-levels. The vast majority of our students move on to higher education, with 80% achieving their first-choice university. Throughout the years, our students have gained places at prestigious universities such as Russell Group universities, including Oxbridge and Imperial College, Delft, Trinity College Dublin, Sciences Po, Complutense University of Madrid, and Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne, amongst many others.





PRE- UNIVERSITY

As an international school, we have a track record of sending students all over the world, including Spain, the Netherlands, UK, Ireland, Germany, France, Switzerland and USA. We support our students in making these decisions by providing them with information and exposure to relevant degrees and universities based on their individual profiles and objectives. We offer individual counselling from experienced staff, visits to career and university fairs, and both local and international visits to universities through our annual university tour abroad.

To support them in achieving their goals, students are encouraged to take increasing responsibility for their lives and prepare for life beyond school. We offer a wealth of leadership and extra-curricular opportunities with our non-academic programmes.

During the last quarter of the Y11 course, students participate in an educational internship programme in companies that provides first contact with the professional world. Students may continue with the Educational Internships programme in June of Y12 making it part of the CAS programme in which they need to undertake three strands: creativity, activity, and service over a period of 18 months.

POWERED BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS

We look to our Sixth Form students to set a strong example by taking on positions of responsibility and leadership. The Canterbury Student Union (CSU), comprised of VI Form students, is led by our Head Girl & Head Boy and their corresponding deputies. The CSU operates with an annual budget and coordinates its efforts through a structured organisation that includes departments of administration, finance, activities and events, design and communication, and space improvement. This structure allows them to effectively contribute to school decisions and have a high level of impact on the school community. This dynamic team provides students with emotional, personal, and academic support, coordinates activities and events throughout the year, fosters a strong sense of community, and consistently enhances the student experience.





LIVING IN GRAN CANARIA

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, the capital of the Canary Islands, is a city that embodies vibrancy and vitality. Nestled within the Atlantic Ocean, the Canary Islands, fondly referred to as the 'Islas Afortunadas' (Fortunate Islands), form part of the Macaronesian archipelago. Despite its geographical proximity to Africa and its distance from mainland Spain, Gran Canaria enjoys a distinctly European standard of living, making it a geographically unique and intriguing location.

Las Palmas is a lively and dynamic city. Many of our international staff find their haven near Las Canteras beach, renowned as one of the world's premier urban beaches, offering year-round pleasant weather. This bustling promenade is a hub of positive energy, where people enjoy an active outdoor lifestyle enhanced by a rich social life, enjoying al fresco dining and drinks with friends. Yet, Gran Canaria is an island of contrasts, where the tranquillity of its more secluded spots coexists with the excitement of its lively urban areas.

The island's volcanic nature has given rise to fascinating microclimates. The considerable altitude and cool north-easterly winds create unique weather patterns. In winter, it's possible to experience sunbathing on the beach and snow-capped peaks within just over an hour's drive.



The island's diverse microclimates foster an extraordinary variety of flora, ecosystems, and landscapes within a compact area, making the Canaries a prime location for a wide range of research, from marine ecosystems to space exploration. From the verdant forests or Laurisilva to the desert-like expanses of the Maspalomas Dunes, the islands offer a living classroom where every element of nature is a lesson in beauty and resilience, encouraging exploration and discovery.

Gran Canaria's favourable climate and varied landscapes also make it an ideal location for filmmaking, which is why it has emerged as a European cinematography hub. From Martian landscapes to Spanish colonial settings, the island's scenery is as versatile as it is breathtaking. Historically, Christopher Columbus utilised Gran Canaria as a base for his transatlantic ventures, forging a connection with the Americas that continues to shape local culture today.

Gran Canaria has also been shaped by British culture, as it once housed a significant British community from the late 19th century well into the 20th century, leaving a lasting impact on local culture still evident today. These British settlers were merchants who recognized an opportunity in its geographical location and settled near the port. Today, the port, Puerto de la Luz, is one of the most important in Europe, welcoming ships and cruise liners from around the world.

Gran Canaria, with its stunning landscapes, welcoming community, and commitment to cultural richness, offers a unique opportunity for teachers to grow both professionally and personally. The island is known for its safety, and the excellent weather means you can enjoy a lot of your life outdoors with endless opportunities for family-friendly activities. The locals are renowned in Spain for their warmth and kindness, making every day an invitation to explore, learn, and connect. Gran Canaria is not just a place to teach, but a place to call home.

Contact

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