



Teacher of PE
(Lacrosse specialism)

September 2018

Vacancy Information

Wycombe Abbey
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP11 1PE

Tel: 01494 520381



WELCOME TO WYCOMBE ABBEY

Wycombe Abbey is a world-class school. Founded in 1896 by pioneering Headmistress Dame Frances Dove, the School has been at the forefront of women's education for over 120 years. We are committed to providing girls with the knowledge, skills and confidence to excel in the ever expanding global workplace.

Set in magnificent grounds spanning more than 170 acres, our school has superb modern facilities, including a Sports Centre with a 25-metre indoor heated swimming pool, a dance studio, a fitness studio, a Courtyard Café and a Performing Arts Centre with a theatre and recital hall. Its teaching facilities are excellent.

Of the 610 pupils, ranging from 11 to 18, 560 are full boarders and 175 are in the Sixth Form. The majority of our girls come from within a one-hour radius of London; other boarders travel from further afield. More than 35 nationalities are represented within the School's full boarding community.

This year's GCSE and A level results were, as usual, outstanding with 97.4 per cent of all GCSE entries being graded A*-A. At A level, 85.6 per cent were A*-A. One third of last year's leavers went to Oxbridge and about twelve to US universities including Claremont McKenna, New York University, Stanford, UCLA and Yale.

Wycombe Abbey is committed to maintaining full boarding for the needs of modern families. Girls who enter the School at 11+ have their own Junior Boarding House. From the age of 12 to 17, pupils live in 9 mixed-age Senior Houses, and in the Upper Sixth girls move into Clarence House, a purpose-built study-bedroom complex which is akin to a university hall of residence.

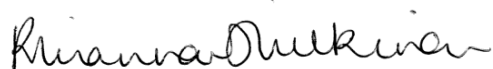
Very many co-curricular and enrichment opportunities are on offer for girls across the age range. Last year, the sports teams reached a significant number of national finals and the sports department offers more than 30 sports on a regular basis. Our Music department teaches more than 600 individual lessons a week and nearly every pupil plays an instrument, if not two. The Drama provision is equally impressive with numerous productions happening annually and opportunities for all to take part.

The School is ideally located to be able to enjoy a wide variety of activities with other independent schools including Eton, Harrow, Radley and Winchester. The boys join the girls for dinners and dances. We also enjoy close relationships with the two boys' grammar schools in High Wycombe, with our pupils and theirs co-operating in choirs, an annual Management Conference and other social and academic events throughout the year.

No institution can afford to stand still if it wishes to remain at the top of its field and Wycombe Abbey is no exception. We keep all aspects of our work – academic, pastoral and co-curricular – under review and it is our intention to strengthen further our position as one of the world's leading boarding schools. In terms of site development, we have just opened two new state-of-the-art boarding houses. We are committed to refurbishing much of our boarding accommodation and we have plans to redevelop significant teaching and learning areas in the Abbey building.

We have introduced a new strategic plan to guide us through the next five years, 2017-2022. Our first sister school opened in Changzhou last year and we are working hard to foster excellence there, not only in academic terms, but also in the soft skills of creativity, emotional intelligence and leadership. There are a number of opportunities for staff to be involved in 'DNA transfer' discussions in our International 'Think Tank' group. We hope to open other Wycombe Abbey International Schools in Asia in the near future.

Exciting times are ahead!



Rhiannon J Wilkinson

Headmistress

TEACHING AT WYCOMBE

The pupils at Wycombe are highly motivated with a strong work ethic. They are inquisitive, creative and eager to learn. Both pupils and teachers benefit from the small classes (typically no larger than 20 in Key Stages 3-4 and no larger than 12 in the Sixth Form), as well as well-resourced classrooms, libraries, laboratories and other facilities.

There is a wide range of ages and experience amongst the 115 teaching staff. Each year a number of newly qualified, and in some cases unqualified recent graduates, join the Staff Room. Wycombe offers statutory induction for Newly Qualified Teachers and also offers the Graduate Teacher Programme to those without a PGCE. There is proactive support for all new members of staff, who are guided through their first year at Wycombe by a variety of people, with the line manager and an individually-appointed mentor taking the lead.

The School prides itself on the many opportunities for continuing professional development. We organise regular whole staff in-service training and have a generous budget for training outside of school. In addition, academic departments commit to sharing good practice. There are opportunities to take part in peer observation, peer coaching, learning reviews and working parties.

A Wycombe PE teacher typically teaches 36 35-minute periods per week. In addition, he/she is attached to a boarding house and is responsible for a tutor group of around 10 pupils from the house. Teachers give freely of their time outside timetabled lessons with many committing to co-curricular activities and helping individual pupils with their academic progress. Teachers are also expected to commit to other (supervisory) duties, such as accompanying house outings.

As a boarding school, Wycombe has lessons on Saturday mornings. All PE Teachers are required to teach on Saturday mornings and to run fixtures on Saturday afternoons. There is time off during the week in lieu of Saturday teaching. Teachers are expected to be in school by 8.15am on weekdays and 8.45am on a Saturday. The teaching day finishes at 5.15pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 4.15pm on Wednesday and 11.50am on Saturday. Co-curricular and enrichment activities typically extend beyond these hours.



THE PE DEPARTMENT

The Physical Education Department is a busy, energetic and lively department with twelve full and part-time teachers and over twenty visiting staff who contribute to a full extra-curricular programme. The sporting facilities are exceptional: there are extensive grounds with five lacrosse pitches, a large floodlit AstroTurf pitch, sixteen netball courts and twenty tennis courts. The School has an impressive, state-of-the-art sports centre, which is staffed by a full-time manager and two assistants. It houses a sports hall, gym/dance studio, fitness suite, swimming pool, four squash courts, climbing wall, teaching room, changing rooms, café area and offices.

In Years 7-9 the girls experience a broad base of activities with a generous allocation of taught Physical Education/Games each week. Lacrosse and Netball are the main winter games, with lessons taught, in addition, in Gymnastics, Dance and Swimming. During the summer the main sports are Tennis, Swimming and Athletics.

In Year 10 all girls attend two double lessons of PE each week. Volleyball, Football, Tag Rugby, Squash and Badminton are taught during the Autumn and Spring terms, as well as a Health Related Fitness course. For the second double lesson there is a wide choice of activities, including Lacrosse, Netball, Dance, Aerobics, Swimming, Aqua-aerobics, Hockey, Football, Golf, Trampolining, Climbing, Ultimate Frisbee, Tennis and Athletics. Year 11 pupils have one double lesson of PE each week. During this they learn to play Basketball, and can also opt for a similarly wide range of other activities.

In the Sixth Form all pupils choose from a wide variety of sporting activities and are encouraged to pursue them to a reasonable standard. They have two compulsory lessons of PE each week. The activities on offer include Aerobics, Badminton, Basketball, Climbing, Hockey, Netball, Squash, Swimming, Tennis, Trampolining, use of the fitness suite and Volleyball.

GCSE PE is well established (AQA specification) and A Level is available in the Sixth Form (AQA specification). GCSE Dance is also an option in the Sixth Form.

The School fields teams in a wide number of sports (e.g. Lacrosse, Netball, Swimming, Polo, Gymnastics, Squash, Skiing, Athletics, Hockey, Tennis, Football and Fencing.) Mid-week and weekend fixtures are arranged with other schools for many of these teams. Pupils take part in district, county and national competitions in a wide variety of sports. A ski team is entered annually for the British Schoolgirls' Ski Race Championships in Flaine, and there are regular Lacrosse and Netball tours abroad. In addition, the department organises a highly successful annual dance show as well as an annual gymnastics show.

The School has academy status for Sports Leadership.





AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PE DEPARTMENT:

The department aims to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which contributes to the educational needs of all pupils. The structure of the overall programme provides opportunities for pupils to develop their physical potential, to experience challenges and achievements, and to foster a sense of responsibility and co-operation.

The department aims to:

- provide a balanced programme available to all pupils, irrespective of physical ability, which enables them to develop their physical potential;
- foster confidence and promote enjoyment through physical activity;
- develop and foster positive attitudes to physical fitness and a healthy and active lifestyle;
- educate the pupils with regard to health, hygiene and safety;
- provide challenging experiences and problem-solving situations through participation in a variety of activities;
- develop creative and imaginative work with opportunities to create, appreciate, observe and evaluate through experience of aesthetic movement;
- assist in the development of personal qualities, such as initiative, responsible behaviour, a sense of co-operation, tolerance and fair play, leadership qualities and perseverance;
- develop intellectual skills through increasing knowledge of physical activity, planning and organisation, understanding of rules, tactics, codes of conduct and etiquette pertaining to activities.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Wycombe Abbey provides a modern and innovative education within a traditional boarding setting, and we therefore seek to employ teachers who will bring outstanding talent, intellect, enthusiasm and innovation to our classrooms.

The successful applicant is likely to possess:

- A good degree in the relevant subject(s)
- A teaching qualification (e.g. PGCE) is desirable
- Experience of coaching and/or playing lacrosse at a high level
- The motivation to develop excellent teaching and learning by sharing good practice and participating actively in continuing professional development.
- A clear and innovative vision with the ability to bring the subject alive
- A willingness to contribute to the wider objectives of the department (e.g. through the sharing of teaching materials, the writing of schemes of work, organising and attending departmental enrichment events)
- The highest level of communication skills for dealing with pupils, parents and staff
- A proven ability to build a positive and collaborative rapport with pupils and staff alike
- A willingness to be involved in the wider life of the school through commitment to the co-curricular programme and/or boarding
- An appreciation of the aims and ethos of Wycombe Abbey





BENEFITS OF LIVING IN HIGH WYCOMBE

Wycombe Abbey is set in 170 acres of parkland. It is a beautiful countryside setting, within a 5-minute walk of the town of High Wycombe where there are many cultural amenities such as the Swan Theatre, with touring West End productions, a multiplex cinema, a range of restaurants and shops including a John Lewis and a House of Fraser. A Waitrose has opened nearby, and there is easy access to the Chiltern Hills and attractive towns such as Marlow, Beaconsfield and Henley-on-Thames nearby. There are many National Trust properties within five miles such as Hughenden Manor, Disraeli's home for many years, West Wycombe Park and Cliveden.

There are outstanding Grammar Schools for boys and girls in High Wycombe itself and also in surrounding towns. London is within easy reach, with the fast train from High Wycombe to London Marylebone taking just 24 minutes. Oxford is within 30 miles, with a newly opened, direct train line to Bicester Village. Wembley Stadium and Heathrow are just 20 miles away and there are good transport links to the other London airports.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

A formal contract of employment will be drawn up on appointment. The following notes provide guidance, without prejudice, on the main provisions of the agreement.

CONTRACT

This is a full-time, fixed-term contract.

Rental accommodation may be available

APPOINTMENT DATE

September 2018.

SALARY

Wycombe Abbey has its own pay scale which compared favourably with other independent schools.

PENSION SCHEME

The school offers membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

DEATH IN SERVICE COVER

Members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme have life cover at x 3 annual salary.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

There is an extensive induction programme for new colleagues and ongoing professional development and training of all staff.

PROVISION OF MEALS

Meals and refreshments are provided free of charge during the working day.

SPORTS CENTRE

The facilities in the Davies Sports Centre (swimming pool, squash courts, fitness suite, etc.) are available for staff use.

FEE REMISSION

Fee remission is available for daughters attending the School, subject to the usual entry requirements and space being available.

PARKING

Free parking is provided.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

It is the policy of Wycombe Abbey to ensure equality of opportunity for all members of staff, both teaching and non-teaching.

SAFEGUARDING

All staff share responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of the pupils and must adhere to, and comply with, the school's Child Protection Policy at all times.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT CHECKS

The appointment is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring check.

APPLICATIONS

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on 19th February and interviews will take place on 1st March.

Please submit a completed application form, which you will find on our website ([click here](#)), as soon as possible, together with a covering letter addressed to the Headmistress, Mrs Rhiannon Wilkinson, outlining the experience and personal qualities which you believe qualify you for this position. The application form and letter should be emailed to Mrs J Wetenhall, HR Manager:
wetenhallj@wycombeabbey.com



www.wycombeabbey.com