



**St Catherine's School Twickenham**

**TEACHER OF**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Full time**

**September 2021**

**INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

## **ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL**

### **TWICKENHAM**

St. Catherine's School is a Catholic independent Girls' Day School, which draws pupils from a wide catchment area and from a range of backgrounds. The site of St. Catherine's has been famous since the poet, Alexander Pope, came to Twickenham in 1719. He developed extensive gardens behind his riverside villa and the School is now situated in this garden. In 1992 the School became fully independent and now operates as a charitable trust.

The School enjoys an enviable position next to the River Thames and yet only a short distance from the centre of Twickenham. Strawberry Hill Station is a ten minute walk from the School and Twickenham Railway Station, 15 minutes. Both have regular services to London (Waterloo), Surrey, Berkshire and Middlesex.

Approximately 40% of our girls are Catholic, and we also warmly welcome girls from all faiths who are in sympathy with the Christian values taught by the School. Girls and staff participate in prayers during assemblies and meetings, and attend mass. The School's focus on ethos and on the Catholic tradition allows us to help girls to explore deeper values. This also underpins our excellent pastoral care system and, although the pastoral and academic oversight of every pupil is primarily the responsibility of the Form Tutor, all staff are involved in the care of pupils.

We strive to help every girl achieve her personal best by providing a broad and balanced education within a stimulating, secure and supportive environment which encourages learning. Success is achieved through personal responsibility, high expectations and a close partnership between parents and school. Emphasis is placed on self-discipline, responsibility, and the importance of kindness, service, and respect for others. Since we are a relatively small school the staff are able to know the pupils as individuals and this engenders a strong community.

The School is organised into the Preparatory School, Senior School and Sixth Form all of which are located on the same site. On leaving the Preparatory School at 11, most pupils enter the Senior School. It is also expected that most Year 11 pupils will enter the Sixth Form. Academic standards are high and the intake is selective at all ages.

Academic Scholarships are awarded for Year 7 and for the Sixth Form to pupils of high academic promise who will benefit from the opportunities that St. Catherine's provides and who will contribute strongly to the life of the school. Music, Art, Drama and Sports Awards are also available, and the all-rounder Siena Scholarship is awarded for the last four years of St Catherine's schooling.

In the Senior School pupils follow courses in English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Studies, History, Geography, Drama, Music, Art, Physical Education and Food and Nutrition, and all pupils in Years 7 to 9 study Spanish, French and German. Emphasis is also placed on the development of Computer Science skills and the school has three ICT suites which can accommodate whole classes. Most pupils study ten subjects to GCSE level and three or four subjects to A Level. Sixth Form pupils can choose from a wide selection of subjects and they also have the opportunity to work towards gaining an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

We attach great importance to a well-rounded education and co-curricular activities play a significant role in the life of the School. Competitive events are held throughout the year and there is a healthy rivalry between the four houses (Bronte, Cavell, Nightingale and Pankhurst). The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is a popular option. Sports include swimming, netball, athletics, hockey, tennis, gymnastics and rounders, and our pupils achieve considerable success at county, regional and national level. Music also plays an important part in the life of the school and all pupils are encouraged to participate in choirs, orchestras, ensembles and the varied programme of concerts and informal performances.

Facilities are very good and include an indoor swimming pool, multi-purpose hall, playing field, three ICT suites, and netball/tennis courts. Over the past ten years the school has invested heavily in new facilities, including a Sixth Form Centre, Drama Studio/Lecture Theatre, Fitness Suite, dining facilities and other teaching areas, as well as upgrading the Science Block - and new projects are underway.

The school is regularly inspected by the Diocese of Westminster and was recently judged to be outstanding in all areas. In the most recent Educational Quality inspection by ISI (the Independent Schools Inspectorate), the quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements, together with the quality of their personal development were deemed to be excellent. And, in the most recent Compliance Inspection, St Catherine's met all requirements and is fully compliant.

Further details may be found in the Independent Schools' Year Book and on our website ([www.stcatherineschool.co.uk](http://www.stcatherineschool.co.uk)).

## **Teacher of Physical Education**

### **Full Time**

The successful candidate would be expected to ensure the successful delivery of Physical Education to Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 pupils and to share responsibility for fixtures, inter-house competitions and practices. An ability to offer swimming, trampolining, football and netball are essential and experience in teaching of GCSE PE (Edexcel), A Level PE (AQA -sociological and psychological aspects) dance, badminton, hockey and gymnastics would be an advantage. An interest in taking a lead in swimming would also be beneficial. The successful candidate should stretch pupils of all abilities to achieve their potential.

In the Senior School, Physical Education is taught through three 45 minute sessions per week in Years 7 – 9, two 45 minute sessions per week and in Years 10 – 11, and one 45 minute session per week for the Sixth Form. Pupils engage in a variety of activities. This is the current programme in the Senior School:

KS 3: HRA, netball, hockey, football, trampolining, athletics, rounders and swimming (including personal survival).

KS 4: Option programme: badminton, trampolining, netball, rock climbing, compulsory HRA, athletics, tennis, rounders, swimming, self-defence. GCSE (Edexcel) is also offered and recruitment is good.

KS5: Option Programme: St Catherine's Community Sports' Leaders award, trampolining, badminton, HRA options, tennis, athletics. A level PE (AQA) is also offered.

Applicants are asked to state their specific preferences and strengths regarding the wide range of extra-curricular activities.

St Catherine's has a proud tradition of excellence in netball, swimming, athletics and cross-country and pupils regularly qualify for regional finals and some national school finals. Pupils compete in the Bank of England tournaments, the ISA London West Championships, ISA National Championships, the Middlesex Schools Netball Championships, the Richmond Borough Cross Country and Trampoline Championships and the Richmond Youth Games. Each year a number of pupils are selected to represent the County and some have gone on to play at higher levels. All girls are encouraged to participate in, or give their support to, the many various Inter-House sports competitions.

Our school has very good sports facilities which include a heated indoor swimming pool, outside tennis and netball courts and a playing field. The large School Hall is marked for netball, basketball and badminton. Our fitness suite provides opportunity for both aerobic and strength training. The Department has access to facilities at St Mary's University and Old Cranleigh's Astroturf, and we are pleased that planning has begun to replace our current grass playing field with a new synthetic based multi-purpose surface.

The department includes three full time members of staff and two part time members in the prep and senior school. In addition, other staff support the PE Dept in extracurricular work.

The person appointed will be expected to play a full and positive part in the life of the school. Therefore an ability and willingness to become involved in, and contribute to, the extra-curricular life of the school is expected. Staff are mindful of safeguarding principles and health and safety at all times. Staff also ensure good communication with parents, including the writing of reports; work together to create and deliver excellent schemes of work; fulfil cover and other duties both within and after the school day; attend whole school events, including sporting events and performances; and undertake any other duties as reasonably requested by the Head. They ensure the highest quality and standards of teaching and learning, and encourage all pupils to participate enthusiastically.

### **Key Responsibilities**

#### **Teaching duties**

- Be responsible for tracking pupil progress;
- Participate in lesson observations and work scrutinies;
- Ensure teaching addresses pupils' individual needs, including support for SEN pupils;
- With direction from the Head of Department, and within the context of the School's curriculum and schemes of work, to plan and prepare effective teaching lessons;
- Provide or contribute to assessments, reports and references;
- Adhere to all School policies;
- Participate in preparing pupils for external examinations;
- Set high expectations so that all pupils are inspired, motivated and challenged;
- Manage behaviour effectively to create a safe, respectful and nurturing environment;
- Work collaboratively with school colleagues as a committed team member;
- Take a role within the pastoral team, to tutor and support pupils;
- Work with colleagues, pupils and families to develop a strong school community.

#### **Other responsibilities**

- Actively promote the safety and welfare of pupils;
- Undertake and, when required, deliver or be part of the appraisal system and relevant training and professional development;
- Support and work in collaboration with colleagues, covering lessons and providing other support as required;
- Help with the administration and managements of fixtures;
- Contribute to co-curricular activities;
- Take responsibility for directing or overseeing a production;
- Undertake, and when required, deliver or be part of the appraisal system and relevant training and professional development;
- Contribute to, and attend whole school events, parent meetings and Open Days;
- Undertake other tasks related to your role, as requested by the Headmistress.

**Experience and Personal Qualities:**

- Commitment to the school's Safeguarding Policy at all times.
- Experience of delivering outstanding lessons to pupils of all ages and abilities;
- Experience of supporting pupils of all ages and abilities to make excellent progress;
- Experience of leading successful enrichment and extracurricular activities;
- Mastery of, and enthusiasm for Science, and in particular Biology;
- Resilience, motivation and commitment to driving up standards of achievement;
- Genuine passion and a belief in the potential of every pupil;
- Excellent communication, planning and organisational skills;
- A friendly, open and collaborative attitude, and a commitment to School ethos.

The salary, which will depend on qualifications and experience, will be discussed when the position is offered to the successful candidate.

## **Application**

If you feel you have the experience, enthusiasm and commitment necessary for this post, then we would be delighted to receive an application from you.

Please complete the enclosed application form and send it together with a covering letter addressed to the Headmistress via email to [recruitment@stcatherineschool.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@stcatherineschool.co.uk)

Please note that only applications on the School's application form will be considered. It is not necessary to send a separate CV nor to complete an application in the TES format.

Closing date for applications: **1 March 2021**  
First Interview: **Week commencing 8 March**

During this COVID-19 period, interviews and other aspects of the recruitment process will be conducted in accordance with DFE guidelines and with an emphasis on health and safety.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to a number of safer recruitment checks including an enhanced DBS check and Barred List as part of Keeping Children Safe in Education, and once in post, receive further training and updates.

Thank you for the interest you have shown in our School. We look forward to receiving your application.

Mrs Johneen McPherson  
Headmistress