

Director of Art Information for Candidates

The School

Oakham is one of the UK's most forward thinking and innovative co-educational boarding and day schools. The school has 1060 pupils aged 10-18, half of them boarders, half day pupils. With equal numbers of boys and girls since 1989, the School offers a truly co-educational environment.

Whilst attracting pupils from all over the country and abroad, the School enjoys a close relationship with the town and the surrounding area. Three years ago Oakham School became one of the sponsors of an academic Sixth Form Academy, Harington School.

Oakham's strength lies in providing a spectacularly wide range of opportunities and activities which sit alongside an invigorating and challenging academic curriculum. In the Upper School, students choose between A-levels, Pre-U and BTEC qualifications, or the IB Diploma.

In recent years, the school has made it a priority to develop independent learning through a series of learning habits, which are increasingly embedded across the curriculum, both inside and outside the classroom. The 'Oakham learning journey' begins in the Lower School (situated on the Jerwoods Site), where boys and girls are admitted through the School's own entrance exam at 11 (there is also a small entry at 10). Pupils also enter the school at 13+ through the Common Entrance (CE) examination and we have a further major entry point at 16+.

Over many years, the school has not only been incredibly successful academically, but it is also recognised nationally for its outstanding achievements in sport, music, drama and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The School is at an incredibly exciting point in its history and has a very ambitious development plan for the next five years, including a new facility for the Performing Arts. Last September, the School opened a new classroom block for Humanities. This year, the School opened a new state-of-the-art Faculty of Social Sciences and has just commenced major redevelopment of the Sports Centre. Oakham School does not stand still.

The Department

We aim to help pupils develop their creativity to reflect their own concerns and lives. Art is a subject for everyone, not a talented elite, and sensitive tuition helps each individual realise his or her personal strengths and to begin to understand what it means to 'think like an artist'. Clear, purposeful and exciting projects directed by the teacher enable students to develop an understanding of the language of art. A part of this is the appreciation of the art of the past and of contemporary practice through discussion and



through written and practical analysis.

There are four painting studios, a library, a sculpture studio (also a separate kiln room and welding area) a textiles studio with a separate sewing machine room and a gallery. The atmosphere of these studios enable boys and girls to work in a creative and personal manner, knowing that their endeavours will be encouraged and that their opinions will be respected by both their teachers and their peers. The specialist skills of our staff of six full time and one part time teachers give to each of the different studios a distinct atmosphere and the teaching programme has been constructed to allow children to experience these different disciplines.

The range of activities, media and materials available is extensive: in sculpture, for example stone carving, welding, casting and ceramics are offered; in textiles machine embroidery, batik and constructed bodices are taught, with students pushing the boundaries of their discipline towards sculpture and fine art. Conceptual thinking, through installation and photography, is an element of the IB Visual Arts programme, alongside the traditional Fine Art skills such as life class and oil painting, which form the core of the Pre U course in the Upper School. There is extensive use of the intaglio and relief print facilities. Exam results are consistently among the best in the school. Examples of student work can be seen on the school website.

Art :Critical and Contextual Studies

The OCR Critical and Contextual A level provides a logical progression to our approach to Critical studies in the lower and middle school. It allows for a creative and contemporary approach to the History of Art. Results have been consistently strong and students regularly choose to continue the study of Art History at University.

Extra Curricular Art

The Richard Bull Centre is open for students to pursue their class work or their own projects throughout the school day and one evening each week as well; as on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Providing extra guidance to students out of class is a fundamental part of the department's practice. For the School Activities programme children can choose from drawing classes, general studio sessions or ceramics.

Exhibitions and Visits

An exhibition programme in the Wheelhouse gallery and in the foyer of The Smallbone Library hosts local artists, national touring shows, staff exhibitions and student's work. These shows bring Art to the heart of the whole school community providing a forum for debate as well as reinforcing class study. Museum and Gallery Visits, both local (years 6-9) national (years 10-13) and overseas (New York Biannually), as detailed in the schemes of work, promote lifelong enjoyment and understanding of western and world culture.

Art and the Community

The Exhibition programme in the Smallbone Library is also open to the general public. The department is regularly involved in projects with local primary schools and mural/art community projects.

Public Examination Results

Academic performance across the school is excellent. In the IB Diploma in 2017, students achieved a mean score of 36.1 points, with over 90% of all Higher Level grades being 7, 6 or 5, and over a third scoring 38 or more points. At A-level, 12% of all examinations were graded A*, and 42% graded either A* to A. Overall, combining across all qualifications, results for the Upper School equate to around 47% A-level grades A* or A or equivalent.

At GCSE level, typically over 60% of all examinations are awarded A* or A; in 2017, over a fifth achieved straight A*s and As, with over a quarter achieving five A*s or better.

The Art department contributed to this success by achieving exceptional results at Pre U; the equivalent of 72% A/A* . IB visual arts candidates have averaged 6.5 points over the last 5 years. For Art Critical and Contextual Studies 50% A/A* (2017) At GCSE 86% of Art candidates achieved A*/A (2017).

Wider Curriculum

Oakham's total curriculum is particularly rich. The school has a strong reputation in the creative and performing arts. The Music Department has nearly 600 music lessons per week for pupils learning an instrument and there is a wide variety of orchestras, ensembles and groups, and over 270 children sing in the school choirs. At any one time there are some 45 music scholars in the school. Theatrical productions are frequent in the school's three venues for drama, including the professionally equipped Queen Elizabeth Theatre which is also used by the town and touring professional companies. The Richard Bull Centre houses a diversity of artistic enterprises from design technology to sculpture, textiles to jewellery. Scholarships are available in Art, Drama and Design & Technology. A whole range of societies and activities flourish, from 'dissection club' to chess and from the CCF to conservation.

Sport is outstanding and there is a considerable breadth of sport available at Oakham. (the school was the 'Daily Telegraph/Aviva Senior Sports School of the Year in 2009/10) The main sports are rugby, hockey and cricket for boys and hockey, netball and tennis for girls. In addition to this, the school has a strong reputation in sailing, rifle shooting, golf and swimming. In most years there are over fifty boys and girls who represent their county or country in a variety of sports.

Pupils are encouraged to be part of the wider life of the community and to see life beyond the East Midlands. This happens in a number of ways, through community service, through trips abroad, but most effectively through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Around 250 pupils participate in D of E activities every year and the school has a strong track record of success having achieved well over 5000 awards since first offering the scheme in 1960.

The richness and range of this activity is achieved within a full boarding environment operating seven days a week, with the term punctuated by weekend Leave Outs and Exeats (half term holidays). Term time can be intense, but rewarding: holidays are long. Members of staff are expected to involve themselves fully in the life of the school, helping with games and other activities outside the classroom. Special skills are welcomed but what matters most is a willingness to give time and energy generously.

The pastoral side of the school is well developed. All our pupils are members of one of the 16 houses, each with its own Housemaster or Housemistress, and every pupil has his or her own tutor. Tutors are responsible for a group of about a dozen pupils. All members of staff (including the Senior Leadership Team) have a specific pastoral role at Oakham.

Oakham is a Church of England foundation with an Anglican chaplain and a chapel which is in use every day. The school warmly welcomes those of other denominations. No-one is excluded from appointment on religious grounds but anyone intolerant of Christianity is unlikely to feel comfortable in the Oakham community.

Timetable

The school runs seven days a week during term time, with a total curriculum of pupil activity both within the formal timetable and beyond it. A full-time teacher is expected to teach twenty periods of 50 minutes per week, as well as fulfilling the tutorial and activity commitments.

Salary and Professional Development

Oakham operates its own competitive salary structure, and the school is keen to recruit and retain high quality staff. There is a generous professional development budget, and staff are encouraged to undertake research and training that will both develop them and enhance the school's educational provision.

Inspection Reports

Oakham School has recently undergone a very successful ISI Inspection (September 2013). The inspection reports can be viewed [here](#).

Application and Interviews

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to spend a day at the school and to meet the Headmaster, Deputy Head (Academic) and senior members of staff, as well as members of the department and other colleagues from the school. Candidates will be asked to teach a lesson as part of the selection process and further details will be forthcoming should you be shortlisted.

Candidates who wish to apply for this post should send their completed application form, covering letter stating where they saw the advertisement and CV giving details of two referees, to:

Mr Nigel Lashbrook, Headmaster
Oakham School
Chapel Close
Oakham
Rutland, LE15 6DT

or via email to Gill Flint, School Administrator, gaf@oakham.rutland.sch.uk.

Initial enquiries should be directed to 01572 758506.

The closing date for applications is 30 November (9am). Interviews are planned for the week commencing 4 December.

Please note that we do not usually provide feedback for applicants who are not shortlisted for a vacancy. Feedback will be provided to shortlisted candidates, on request.

Under current legislation, we are required to advise applicants that this appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure. Oakham School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service. Details of any criminal record (spent or unspent, due

to exemption from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974) must be disclosed at interview. Only relevant convictions and other information will be taken into account so disclosure need not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position at Oakham School. A copy of the Recruitment of Ex-offenders Policy is enclosed. For further details, please visit the Disclosure & Barring website.