



BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

Information for candidates applying for the position of Physics Teacher

Required for September 2017

HMC INDEPENDENT
CO-EDUCATIONAL DAY SCHOOL

SENIORS
404 PUPILS
AGED 11-18
271 BOYS / 133 GIRLS

PREP
343 PUPILS
AGED 3-11
206 BOYS / 137 GIRLS

NURSERY
65 PUPILS
AGED 3 MONTHS – 3 YEARS
23 BOYS / 42 GIRLS

THE SCHOOL

Birkenhead School, founded in 1860, is an HMC independent day school providing education for boys and girls drawn from the whole of the Wirral and as far afield as Chester and North Wales. There are currently some 65 children in the Nursery & Pre-Prep (ages 3 months to 3), 343 pupils in the Prep (ages 3-11) and 404 pupils in Years 7 to 13. When the local GDST school announced that it was to become an Academy, the Governors decided to make Birkenhead School fully co-educational from September 2008, offering the choice of an independent education to all local children. Across the School approximately 38% of pupils are now girls. The School attracts pupils in competition with several well-established state grammar schools on the Wirral.

Situated in the leafy suburb of Oxtan, the School enjoys excellent facilities. The main campus has a 'village green' atmosphere, with classrooms and laboratories looking out over the cricket square. Recent capital developments have included a new games pavilion, six new classrooms for Prep, a major refurbishment of both the Sixth Form Centre and the School Hall's performance space and a new artificial sports pitch. There are ongoing and substantial investments in ICT facilities. In addition to the main campus, the School owns 17 acres of playing fields on two sites nearby. The educational and recreational opportunities offered by Liverpool, Chester and North Wales are all within easy reach.

The School is in a strong position financially, with no debt. We are fortunate to have financial support from our "Foundation Trust", and we are well supported by the Old Birkenian Society and by the Parents' Association.

SCHOOL ORGANISATION

The School comprises Nursery, Prep and Seniors and integrates their objectives and activities within a whole school concept. The Head chairs the School's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) comprising the Head of Prep, Deputies and the Bursar. This group normally attends the Board meetings.

Birkenhead School prides itself on being a family school and this has been greatly strengthened by the opening of the Nursery in 2006 and the decision to become fully co-educational in 2008. It is very attractive to parents to have all their children in one school and it is a great advantage for the school to be able to establish strong, long-lasting relationships with families. The move to coeducation reinforced this and at present, 195 families have more than one child in the School and 28 have three or four children.



Birkenhead School, The Lodge, 58 Beresford Road, Oxtan, CH43 2JD
Telephone: 0151 652 4014 | web: www.birkenheadschoo.co.uk
Email: enquire@birkenheadschoo.co.uk





BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

SENIORS

Admission to the senior part of the School for pupils who have not been through the Prep is either through an assessment towards the end of Year 5 or in January/February of Year 6. A substantial number of pupils benefited in the past from the Government Assisted Places Scheme and the School aims to offer similar support in the form of Scholarships and Bursaries. Bursaries are now increasingly offered from Year 2 in the Prep as well.

The target year group size in Seniors is 66. There are currently 106 students in the Sixth Form studying 4 AS subjects in the Lower 6th and going on to study three or four A2s in the Upper 6th. Academic results are strong (A level A* - B: 88% in 2016, GCSE A* - A: 67% in 2016). Almost all students go on to further study at university, with the majority going to Russell Group universities including Oxbridge.

Throughout the School a broad and challenging curriculum is offered, complemented by an extensive programme of co-curricular activities, including music, drama and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme as well as educational visits, after-school clubs and overseas trips. The Chapel is used through the School's week and the Chapel Choir sings choral evensong on Sunday during term. Sport is particularly strong, with an extensive fixture list for both boys and girls and considerable success at regional and indeed national level.

Prep

The Prep is a vital and integral part of Birkenhead School, and shares the same standards and ethos as Seniors.

Numbers across the School are healthy and overall numbers in Prep have remained strong. There are currently 65 children in the Early Years Foundation Stage and 343 children in Years 1– 6. A pattern of three forms per year from Year 1 is now established, with a target year group size of 60. A small number of pupils leave at 11 to go to one of the free grammar schools. However, recruitment from local primary schools compensates for this loss.

The continuity between Prep and Seniors has been greatly assisted by the removal, in 2005, of a requirement for Prep pupils to sit the entrance examination. Pupils are now assessed for transfer during Year 5 and, based on internal assessments, NFER scores and teacher evaluation, places are offered in the summer term of Year 5.

THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

The Physics department consists of three teachers who teach Physics as a separate subject from Year 9 and who contribute to the general science teaching in Years 7 and 8. At GCSE a majority of pupils are entered for the higher tier AQA GCSE separate sciences and around quarter take the GCSE Combined Science. The AQA specification is covered at A Level.

Last year, 95% of students achieved A* or A grades at iGCSE (100% gained A*-B), with 100% the previous two years. Around 45% of the Sixth Form study Physics at A level with approximately 80% achieving A*-B grades. Classes are small, on average around 20 at Key Stage 4 and 12 in the Sixth Form.

The department is well equipped, with three laboratories and two prep rooms supported by a full time Physics technician.

This is an exciting time for the Physics department; the current Head of Physics (Paul Webster) is also Head of KS3 Science and highly receptive to input from teachers who wish to encourage more students to study Physics or Engineering at university. In addition, a significant portion of the cohort go on to secure Medicine or Dentistry places.

The wider Science department, led by the Head of Science (Pete Lindberg), has an excellent reputation both within School and beyond. The Head of Co-curricular Science (Sharon Tharme) has developed strong links to the community through science fairs, an international research project, outreach activities and success at national level in Olympiads, CREST awards and Nuffield Bursaries. We enjoy good relationships with Merseyside STEM, RSL, the Liverpool Universities, Unilever, Vauxhall and Typhoo.





BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

THE POSITION OF PHYSICS TEACHER

We are seeking to appoint an inspirational teacher with a strong Physics background in this major department. The vacancy arises due to increased numbers of students. The successful candidate should expect to teach Physics at GCSE and A Level, and some general Science.

He or she can expect to join a school with a fine record of academic success, where pupils are co-operative and well-motivated. Applications from both NQTs and more experienced teachers are welcome.

TEACHING AT BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

The School employs about 88 teaching staff, as well as a similar number of support staff. The common rooms are friendly and well supported and there is a healthy mix of youth and experience!

In addition to their curricular and co-curricular contributions, full time teachers have responsibility for a Form; this includes the pastoral curriculum and promoting pupils' personal development through the House system. Form tutors attend Chapel and assemblies with their Form.

All teachers appointed are expected to be able and willing to contribute to the life of the School beyond their academic discipline. There are many opportunities to share enthusiasms and staff can expect to be supported in any attempt to broaden pupils' horizons.

REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Salary will be on the Birkenhead School teaching pay scales and will reflect the experience of the post holder.

Some other benefits of teaching at Birkenhead School include:

- around 170 teaching days per year (190 in maintained sector).
- around four Staff Training days for all teaching staff (full and part time).

- full access to the Teachers' Pension scheme
- lunch is provided free of charge in the dining hall to staff who remain 'on duty'.
- accredited NQT induction.
- childcare voucher scheme.
- children of teaching staff enjoy a 50% fee reduction from Reception onwards (less in Nursery and Pre-Prep).
- grants towards home computer purchase.
- sports kit provided for those involved in coaching teams.

APPLICATION

Letters of application, together with a completed application form (a *curriculum vitae* may be included), including the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent for the attention of the Headmaster:

headmaster@birkenheadschool.co.uk.

Applications may also be sent by post to:

The Headmaster, Birkenhead School, 58 Beresford Road, Oxton, Wirral, CH43 2JD

Application forms can be downloaded from the School's website www.birkenheadschool.co.uk or from the Headmaster's PA, Mrs Debbie Roberts, telephone 0151 651 3009.

All posts are subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Candidates are welcome to contact the Head of Science, Pete Lindberg (pl@birkenheadschool.co.uk) or the Head of Physics, Paul Webster (pmw@birkenheadschool.co.uk) for an informal conversation or to arrange a visit to the School.

Closing date for applications: 4pm on Friday 3rd March 2017.

Interviews are planned to take place on Tuesday 14th March 2017.

