



THE ORATORY

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Head of History **Closing date – 18 March 2018**

The Oratory Preparatory School (OPS) is a Roman Catholic day and boarding school for boys and girls from 2 to 13. The school welcomes both staff and pupils of other denominations and faiths. There are around 420 pupils in the school, 120 of them in the Pre-Prep Department and 300 in the Prep school. The school is set in 60 acres of beautiful countryside on the edge of the Chiltern Hills, nine miles north of Reading.

The OPS aims to provide the best possible education for its pupils. Staff are expected to maintain a very high standard of teaching and are provided with every support from the Headmaster and the Senior Leadership Team. The successful candidate must be willing to contribute fully to the life of the school and to participate in such duties as are customary for staff at the OPS. The Head of History will be line-managed by the Deputy Head (Academic) but will report ultimately to the Headmaster.

The role:

We are looking to appoint a highly-qualified, organised, ambitious and energetic individual to lead our History Department in order to achieve the highest of standards for the school and the pupils. It is essential the candidate has a fierce passion for teaching History and has the work ethic and drive to lead the department. The post would suit a teacher with leadership potential or leadership experience who has excellent subject knowledge, who is inspired by history and can inspire pupils about history. The successful candidate will be expected to build upon the department's current achievements as well as having an innovative approach in the classroom and a proven track record enthusing and engaging students.

The History Department

Our History Department cultivates a whole-school curiosity for the subject. With an illustrious reputation, we unashamedly declare our aim of being the subject that the children enjoy most at our school. We recognize the maxim, "the teacher is no longer the sole guardian of knowledge". Our history teaching is geared around problem-solving, knowledge-hunting, project work and story-telling, rather than on onerous learning of historical facts.

At OPS, History is taught with the aim of fostering each child's lifelong interest in the history of our nation and of the wider world. We are aware that a pupil's years of studying history as a compulsory subject are almost over by the time they leave prep school and so we offer a broad historical syllabus and one which is so stimulating and inspiring that a large number of our pupils will, and do in fact, choose to continue to study History when it becomes an option for GCSE after year 9. In year 8, there is a shift in focus to Common Entrance and Scholarship preparation, and externally marked exams position us as a 'top three' department in the school. Not that exam results matter. What matters more is that our children come away with a love for learning about and investigating the past.

Job Description:

What we are looking for –

- A department head with a genuine commitment and passion for History and its value as part of the prep school curriculum.
- A department head with the ability to motivate and manage colleagues, fostering enjoyment, exploration and creativity.
- An individual who is passionate about working in our school.
- An individual who is determined to provide the best educational experience for their pupils.
- An individual who wants to continually learn.
- An excellent teacher with high expectations in teaching and learning, above all able to inspire curiosity in children.

The successful candidate will -

- Have experience of teaching History to the relevant age group and be prepared to develop and update skills as necessary perhaps with a view to taking on greater responsibility within the academic program.
- Have a degree of technological expertise in order to bring the subject to life, for example with the use of interactive hand-held devices, History Apps, i-Movie projects, and so on.
- Have experience of teaching on, and practical examination preparation for, the ISEB Common Entrance +13, ISEB CASE and a range of independent schools' History scholarship programs; furthermore to strive for excellent examination results in keeping with the OPS History Department's enviable track record.
- Have an understanding of alternatives to the ISEB common entrance +13 and CASE History
- Give pupils meaningful feedback to support their learning through both formative and summative assessments and through current school reporting processes where necessary.

- Be a team leader, supporting other members of the department, chairing meetings and directing evaluation, planning and development in order to move the department forwards.
- Liaise with the members of the department to ensure that materials, equipment and workspaces are used appropriately and equitably.
- Take ownership of the groups for which they are responsible, planning, preparing materials and ensuring that pupils have all necessary equipment and resources.
- Be the lead contributor to our philosophy of 'History Alive', as promoted through school trips and outings, History assemblies, theme days, Remembrance events, History artwork, drama, projects and competitions.
- Contribute and lead Boys or Girls Games sessions on a regular basis, as part of the Games staff.
- Fulfilment of duties such as minibus driving and life guarding, as required as part of the teaching staff.
- Fulfilment of the normal duties of a member of the teaching staff, including any reasonable requests that the Headmaster, the Deputy Head (Academic) or the Heads of Department may make.

To lead, train, support and manage department staff through:

- ensuring that all new staff receive a comprehensive induction;
- supporting the continuing professional development of department staff
- organising lesson observations within the department
- Keeping up-to-date with relevant issues and attend courses regularly to keep abreast of developments and encourage other members of the History Department to do the same.
- facilitating the sharing of good practice through meetings and INSET
- Holding de-briefing meetings following courses and INSET days.
- Organising annual Performance Management of colleagues under direct line management.

To lead the History department's review and improvement planning work by:

- analysing the examination results of pupils working within the subject and agreeing and implementing action points
- reviewing and developing the Development Plan for the department
- Lead and support the planning, implementation, evaluation and development of the History curriculum in both our pre prep and prep departments and maintain and develop departmental policy in line with the requirements of the school and ISI.

Person Specification

The successful candidate will display most or all of the following qualities:

- be an excellent teacher with high expectations in teaching and learning
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills
- The ability to work independently
- Excellent communication skills, both written and oral
- Excellent interpersonal skills, in order to interact successfully with pupils, parents and staff
- An excellent work ethic and commitment to the school and its pupils
- Be smart and professional in appearance and manner
- Compassion for children with low self-esteem and a sense of humour in the classroom and with colleagues

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Benefits include free gym membership and meals whilst on duty and being situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

APPLICATIONS

Full details and an application pack are available from the Human Resources Department, The Oratory School, Woodcote, Reading, RG8 0PJ. Alternatively, you can email your name and address to humanresources@oratory.co.uk or phone 01491 683506.

If you feel you meet the requirements of the post, please complete fully the enclosed application form and send it, with a covering letter addressed to:

**Human Resources Department
The Oratory School
Woodcote
Reading RG8 0PJ**