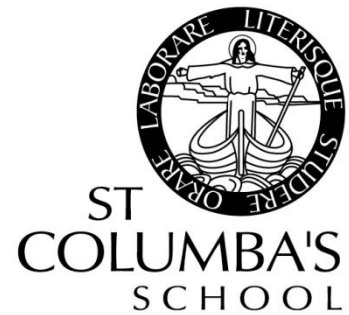


## **TEACHER OF BIOLOGY** **(part-time 0.5FTE, permanent)**



### **General Information**

St Columba's School is an HMC, non-denominational School founded in 1897, initially as a School for Girls. It has been co-educational since 1982 with equal numbers of boys and girls. The current roll for the entire School, from Nursery to Senior VI, is 630. The Junior School is situated a quarter of a mile from Senior School and has a roll of 220. The Rector has overall responsibility for the whole School: there is also a Head Teacher at the Junior School.

The first thing you notice at St Columba's is the warm welcome. This is in part the result of our size. Teachers know each pupil by name. Indeed, recognition of the individual is an important feature of the School's vision; considerable effort is made to create an environment which allows us to identify and nurture the unique talents and skills of each student, and encourage all of them to realise their full potential. Our success is evident not only in the excellent academic results achieved, regularly placing St Columba's as one of the highest performing schools nationally, but in the impressive young people whom you will meet in our classrooms, at an international debate, or on a rugby field: they are polite, articulate and quietly self-assured.

There has been significant investment in facilities, including the opening of an additional Junior School building in 2001. Between 2014 and 2016, a number of major developments of the School's facilities have been undertaken including: the refurbishment of the Science building; the replacement of the Astro turf hockey pitch; and a major development of the Junior School grounds. The extension to the Senior School which opened in October, 2016, includes a pastoral care suite, a new library, 13 new classrooms and faculty bases. In November 2018 we opened the Wellbeing Centre at the heart of the School. Taken together, these developments represent a significant investment in the future of the School.

In June 2011, St Columba's was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education. The report which is exceptionally positive is attached separately.

We are seeking an enthusiastic and inspirational Teacher of Biology to join our highly successful Biology Department from August 2019. The vacancy has arisen owing to the retirement of Head of Biology, Mrs Liz Wilson and Acting Head of Biology, Mrs Patricia Nicoll.

The Biology department includes the Head of Department, a full-time Teacher of Biology and a part-time Teacher of Biology [0.5FTE] (vacancy). [Higher Psychology is delivered by an external staff member of West College Scotland and is overseen by the Head of Department.]

Integrated Science is taught to Transitus (Primary 7) by Senior School teachers of Biology, Chemistry and Biology. From SI to SVI separate sciences are taught with candidates being presented for SQA examinations at all levels.

Higher Psychology is offered as a crash Higher to SVI pupils only.

The Biology department is highly regarded within the school community; uptake is strong with 32 (of 60 pupils in SIV) candidates at National 5; 21 (of 62 pupils in SV) at Higher; and 11 (of 50 pupils in SVI) at Advanced Higher. Results at all stages are excellent. The Department provides enrichment to the curriculum through extra-curricular opportunities such as the CREST award and active participation in the school's STEM Society. Practical work is important to the department with modern PASCO equipment available.

The post is aligned to the SNCT scales, reviewed in April each year; with the further three per cent St Columba's enhancement. Fee restriction of 50 per cent is granted for the education of the children of members of the teaching staff after one year's service.

Energy, vision, good communication skills and the ability to motivate pupils will be crucial attributes for the successful candidate. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute fully to the extra-curricular life of the School.

The School has a comprehensive Professional Review and CPD programme in place.

Letters of application and CVs with the names and email addresses of two referees should be sent to the Rector by noon on Friday, 24 May 2019 either by email to [recruitment@st-columbas.org](mailto:recruitment@st-columbas.org) or by post to St Columba's School, Duchal Road, Kilmacolm PA13 4AU.

Interviews are expected to take place during week commencing 3 June 2019. Please note that applicants must be registered or eligible for registration with the General Teaching Council of Scotland.

Candidates are welcome to contact Mrs Patricia Nicoll to discuss the post informally. Initial contact should be made by email to [pnicoll@st-columbas.org](mailto:pnicoll@st-columbas.org) or by telephone 01505 872238. The appointment will be subject to membership of The Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme.

Mrs Andrea Angus  
**Rector**  
**May 2019**