

## Message from Gordon Ironside – Headmaster

Thank you for your interest in the vacancy at Sutton Grammar School.

There are many reasons why Sutton Grammar School could be the right place for you.

These could include becoming a member of a very stable staff team. That low turnover of staff shows that people are comfortable here and feel supported as teachers and as colleagues. We have boys of high ability to teach and many staff enjoy offering other opportunities to the boys through our extra-curricular programme.

In science we have a national reputation in project work with many individuals and teams winning prizes at national and international competitions. These projects include topics in pure science but many are linked to applications and we have a lot of expertise in related areas like electronics, computing, and design.

Almost all teachers here have a broad spread of teaching from year 7 to A-level teaching. Most students aspire to study at university and helping this to happen is a key role for all staff at the school. We have an excellent team of support staff.

We have a great sports ground in Cheam. The main school site is in the centre of Sutton. There is a railway station within a five minute walk and many bus routes radiate from Sutton also.

The students are becoming ever more confident communicators, with several departments publishing high quality journals of articles written by students. Drama, music and debating are all outlets for the many skills that the boys develop in their time at the school.

Our compact site in the centre of Sutton has been extensively updated in recent years with several new buildings offering decent accommodation for all subjects. The sixth form is growing and girls can now join the Sixth Form.

Results are regularly strong and the current Ofsted rating (from December 2008) is 'Outstanding'.

We recognise that there are many hurdles for students on the way to maturity and fulfilling lifetime ambitions and most students need personalised support. As a smaller school we are in a good position to provide that and our SEND team are highly regarded for the quality of the support they offer to those students with greater needs. Just because our students are bright does not mean that success comes smoothly and pastoral support is key to making our students happy and successful.

We try to listen to our students, parents and staff to make sure that the school is developing in ways that gets the most out of our students and maintains the enthusiasm and support of all who work here, even in these times of challenging budgets for all schools.

Whether you are highly experienced or at the start of your career I can promise you that this school is an attractive place to work, with bright students to share your subject enthusiasm with and a location on the edge of suburban London that is still affordable and yet within easy reach of the city and the countryside.

I recognise that applying for jobs is a time consuming task – I thank you in advance if you take this opportunity further. It could be the best move you make!

