

# Teacher of English (part-time, 1-year FTC)

Starting Date: 1st March 2027 or 19th April 2027

MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL



# Introduction

## from the Master, Helen Pike



Magdalen College School is a remarkable place. We are now well into our sixth century, and our former pupils include scholars, war heroes, musicians, Olympians, two Nobel Prize laureates, a Hollywood film director, and a saint.

Our success in public examinations, in securing places at top universities, and in an astonishing array of co-curricular pursuits ensures that we continue this proud tradition. We do so by nurturing the individual potential of each of our pupils, and above all we believe that learning is as fun as it is fulfilling.

William of Waynflete founded Magdalen College School in 1480: schoolmaster, bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor of England. Being of humble origins, Waynflete was determined that others of ability should be given the opportunity to learn, to serve and to prosper as he did. And so MCS offers a transformative education in our global university city, the community to which we contribute.

We attract and retain the best staff and MCS is a stimulating, welcoming and thriving environment in which both to learn and to work.

A lot happens at MCS. The various sections of our website (www.mcsoxford.org) including the recent News will give you an impression of our school.

Thank you for your interest.

H. L. Pike

# Working at MCS

## There are many benefits to working at Magdalen College School. Founded in 1480 by William of Waynflete, the school has a rich history and an enviable location at the heart of Oxford beside the River Cherwell.

MCS is one of the country's leading independent day schools. Shaped by its Christian Collegiate foundation and links with the university city of which it is part, it aims to inspire in all its pupils a desire to learn, flourish and serve.

There are around 950 pupils, boys aged 7-18 and Sixth Form girls, and 350 members of staff who learn and work on the School's central Oxford site. During the coming decade MCS will become a fully co-educational school from J1 to Upper Sixth, offering places to high achieving boys and girls as we prepare to commemorate our 550th anniversary in 2030.

### Academic

The pupils are a joy to teach – gifted academically and talented across a wide range of other pursuits. Pupils wear their considerable abilities lightly; they feel a very strong connection to their school, are kind to one another and are inquisitive and motivated. Public exam results see the school consistently placed among the most successful schools in the UK. In 2026, 45% of A Level grades were A*, 83% were A*-A and 97% were A*-B. At GCSE, 58% of grades were Grade 9, 83% were 9-8, 93% were 9-7 and 99% were 9-6. Pupils are very successful in their university applications, with the vast majority gaining places at leading institutions, including around 25% gaining offers from Oxbridge.

### Co-curricular

Co-curricular activities play a central role in life at MCS. The quality of the provision across sport, music and drama, as well as over 100 clubs and societies, is exceptional. There are around 40 music ensembles and over 70 concerts per year; some at MCS and some at venues around Oxford like the Sheldonian Theatre. There are 10-15 drama productions of various genre each year; some are performed at MCS, and some make use of theatres in Oxford such as the Playhouse and Burton Taylor. There is also a technical theatre academy. Sport is hugely popular and successful at MCS with a dual focus on participation and performance. Last year, 94% of all pupils represented the school in a competitive fixture and over the last few years we have won national titles in hockey, sailing and tennis. There are also numerous successes at local and regional level across all sports and a significant number of individual pupils are supported along talent pathways in various sports.

### Pastoral

MCS places great value on the individual and is well-regarded for the quality of the pastoral care. Most teachers are also tutors, responsible for the day to day pastoral and academic care of their tutees under the leadership of the Heads of Year and Heads of Section. Tutor groups are organised through the house system which develops a sense of loyalty and identity and provides many opportunities for competitions from quizzing to football and from debating to singing. Our pupils are happy and have excellent relationships with each other and with members of staff.

### Remuneration

The school currently has its own salary scale, and salaries are substantially more generous than those in the maintained sector; there is also a relocation allowance on a sliding scale, by agreement with the Master and Bursar, and dependent on current location. The school also operates a cycle to work scheme, and travel loans are available. MCS offers teaching staff a choice of pension arrangements; a Defined Contribution scheme with an employer contribution of

23.68% or the Teachers' Pension Scheme with a salary sacrifice arrangement. Staff may move between the two schemes as suits their needs. The Master will discuss the pension with any offer of appointment.

## Benefits

There is a wide range of benefits available to staff, including a free lunch. The school has a fully equipped gym which is available for staff use, and staff may also enjoy access to the University of Oxford's gym and sports facilities for a significantly reduced membership fee. Tennis courts are available, and there is a comprehensive programme of staff sports clubs. Staff also have the opportunity to join choirs and music groups, and to get involved in drama productions.

Staff are encouraged to make use of the Senior Common Room within and after the school day, as an area for relaxation and shared discussion outside departments. Tea and coffee are served in the SCR at morning break, and cakes and fruit are available at the end of the school day. Staff socials and guest night dinners are regular features of each term.

School fee remission is available for permanent members of staff whose sons and/or Sixth Form daughters are offered a place at the school following entrance tests and interviews, and is currently 50% pro rata subject to a minimum FTE of 50%. In addition, 20% fee remission is available pro rata for permanent MCS staff who have daughters attending Headington Rye, subject to a minimum of 50%



# The Role

## The school is seeking to appoint a part-time (0.7 FTE across Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri) fixed term (one-year) Teacher of English from 19th April 2027 (a 1st March 2027 start is also available).

The role would be suitable for an experienced teacher, an Early Career Teacher (ECT), or someone without a teaching qualification.

## The Department

The English department at MCS is a thriving, ambitious and stimulating environment where pupils have the opportunity to develop a love of reading and writing in lessons and independently.

Outstanding classroom teaching is supported by a busy enrichment programme which includes the school's creative writing society and magazine, lunchtime seminars, lectures from visiting speakers, regular theatre trips to Stratford and London, debating, a journalism club, and pupil-led reading groups.

Academic standards are high. In 2026, pupils studying A Level English Literature achieved 70% A* and 95% A*-A. At GCSE, pupils obtained 69% grades 9-8 / 84% grades 9-7 in English Language, and 68% grades 9-8 / 89% grades 9-7 in English Literature. Each year a number of our applicants receive offers to read English at Oxford, In Cambridge, and other leading universities.

English is at the centre of the curriculum at MCS, with all pupils taking four periods of English per week in Years 7-9, and five periods per week in Years 10 and 11. In the Sixth Form, pupils study the subject for seven periods per week in Lower Sixth and eight in Upper Sixth.

In the Lower School (Years 7 to 9), the development of the boys' creative and analytical writing skills is driven primarily through the close study of a wide range of poetry, prose and drama texts. Our aim in these years is to foster a love of literature as well as to ensure the pupils are well equipped to make the transition to (I)GCSE, where we currently follow the Edexcel IGCSE English Language and Eduqas GCSE English Literature specifications. In the Sixth Form, we teach the OCR English Literature A Level course, which offers teachers and pupils extensive opportunities to exploit and develop their passions in the subject, both collaboratively and individually.

## The Candidate

We are looking for an outstanding English teacher. The successful candidate will:

- take a keen interest in the welfare of pupils and show clear commitment to safeguarding children;
- be a well-qualified graduate of English or a related discipline;
- have excellent written and spoken communication skills and communicate effectively with pupils, parents, staff and the local community;
- have sound IT skills;
- have the ability to work collaboratively and effectively as part of a wider team;
- display a high level of attention to detail;
- be willing to take part in continuing professional development;
- respond positively to feedback.

The responsibilities of the role include, but are not limited to:

- showing clear enthusiasm for teaching English, and planning and teaching engaging lessons to pupils from Year 7 to A Level and Oxbridge;
- assisting with university application preparation for English or English-related courses;
- setting clear expectations for safety and pupil behaviour within an encouraging classroom environment;

- contributing to the review and development of engaging schemes of work for teaching English to bright pupils;
- supporting the progress of all pupils studying English by taking a role in departmental provision;
- be willing to contribute to other areas of school life, such as Games, music, drama, community service or other activities;
- acting as the pastoral tutor to a Senior School houseroom (tutor group);
- maintaining high professional standards of attendance, punctuality, appearance and conduct, and maintaining positive and courteous relationships with staff, pupils and parents;
- attending school events as required or requested;
- undertaking other reasonable duties, as directed by the Master, as required from time to time.

The Teacher of English will report to the Head of English and ultimately to the Master, for the proper discharge of his or her duties.



# Life in Oxford

Located at Magdalen Bridge, with views toward both the city centre and east Oxford, MCS is close to a wealth of cultural, entertainment, and educational venues.

## The City

Oxford, renowned as one of the world's most prestigious university cities, has a rich history dating back over a thousand years. Established in the early medieval period, the city grew around its strategic location on the River Thames, which facilitated trade and transportation. By the 12th century, it became an educational hub with the founding of the University of Oxford, the oldest university in the English-speaking world.

With its blend of ancient and modern, there is an abundance of activities to enjoy. Whether visiting one of the many historic buildings, colleges, or museums, dining in a restaurant, attending a performance, or exploring local boutiques, Oxford offers a diverse array of experiences for all interests.

## The University

MCS shares many links with the University. Staff can enjoy free entry to the Oxford Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum, watch our choristers perform evensong in Magdalen College Chapel, or use the University sports facilities on Iffley Road.

During the university's full term, Oxford buzzes with activity, hosting numerous talks, performances, fixtures, events, and celebrations throughout the academic year.

## The Arts

Oxford is celebrated not only for its academic heritage but also for its vibrant cultural scene. The Ashmolean Museum, the oldest public museum in the UK, showcases art and archaeology from around the globe. The city's theatres, such as the Oxford Playhouse, offer a range of performances, while the annual Oxford Literary Festival attracts renowned authors and literary enthusiasts alike.

The School's own dynamic programme of arts sees it stage some 14 drama productions each year, with annual productions at the Oxford Playhouse and on School Field, alongside a thriving partnership with the Pegasus Theatre. Every year, we perform a major musical concert at the Sheldonian Theatre, Symphony Hall Birmingham, and other prestigious venue, often inviting pupils from our partner schools to take part alongside us. We commission original pieces, working with composers such as Lin Marsh and Bob Chilcott. Our exciting visual arts programme gives pupils the freedom to explore original creations in multiple media, and opportunities to display their work to audiences within and beyond our community.

## Accommodation and transport

Oxford offers a wide range of accommodation options to suit various preferences and budgets. While many colleagues live in the city, a significant number choose to reside in surrounding villages and towns, which provide easy access to Oxford. Commuters benefit from an extensive bus network and park-and-ride services, and the school is well connected by dedicated cycle lanes from all directions. Additionally, Oxford's excellent rail links make it easy to reach London in just under an hour.

# Partnerships and Professional Development

## Partnerships

We aim to equip our pupils to make a positive and lasting contribution to their communities, both now and in the future.

Each year, the school coordinates and hosts a wide range of partnership projects and events, professional development meetings for fellow teachers, and academic, cultural, and sporting enrichment opportunities for local children. Key elements of this extensive programme include *The Bridge*, a Saturday school for Year 5 and 6 children; an academic extension programme in a range of science and humanities subjects; monthly partnership activity days; and weekly in-school extension classes in mathematics. In all these areas, we aim to support our community by fostering connections between people and by bringing them together in enriching, collaborative activities.

## Community Service Organisation (CSO)

Through the school's Community Service Organisation (CSO), Lower Sixth pupils spend one afternoon each week volunteering in the community. Collectively, they volunteer over 7,500 hours each year. The placements vary, offering each pupil an opportunity to discover something that captures their imagination. Activities range from mentoring primary school pupils in Maths and English, running language clubs, providing reading support, producing artwork for the walls of local hospitals, performing concerts in schools and care homes, to running practical science workshops in our teaching labs. Each year, a number of pupils choose to continue volunteering at their placements beyond the end of Lower Sixth.

## Charity

Charity plays an increasingly important role in school life at MCS. Each year, the school votes to select a local charity to support, alongside our partnership school in Uganda, and every year group participates in fundraising activities.

The school's charity committee organises regular events to raise money and increase engagement across the school. Numerous staff and students take the initiative to hold their own fundraising efforts, from sponsored marathons and long-distance cycle rides to staff concerts, pupil-led talent shows, and House quizzes.

## Professional Development

The school places a significant emphasis on the professional development of all staff. A half-termly CPD & Teaching Newsletter is distributed by email, which aims to highlight educational research and practical ideas, to share ideas from courses and conferences attended, to offer guidance on opportunities for CPD, and to highlight the work of colleagues in the area of teaching and learning. All colleagues are encouraged to attend at least one external CPD course each year, and also to visit another school, place of work or university, where appropriate. The Teaching and Learning Group meets before school twice per half term. Its purpose is to consider developments in educational research, to facilitate discussion of teaching and learning, to offer a forum for the sharing of good teaching practice, and to support colleagues in experimenting with new teaching techniques.

## Early Career Teachers (ECTs) and the Waynflete Teaching Certificate

The School has well-established procedures to support ECTs and is the regional hub for ISTIP ECT induction. The School also aims to offer teaching staff joining the school without a teaching qualification the opportunity to develop their teaching craft and reflect on their professional practice though a structured programme of training and support. For such colleagues, the school offers the Waynflete Teaching Certificate, which may ultimately lead to Qualified Teacher Status through the Assessment Only route offered by the University of Reading.


MCS SPORT

# Application Process

## Candidates wanting to apply to this vacancy should complete and submit the online application form no later than Midday on Monday 2nd November 2026.

### Documentation

Candidates should submit their application form via the website. Click here.

The complete application should be submitted no later than Monday 2nd November, at midday; early applications are highly encouraged.
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### References

References may be taken up in advance. If you do not wish for your references to be called for at this stage, please make that clear on the reference section of the application form.

### Interviews

We anticipate holding interviews on Monday 9th November 2026, which will include a taught lesson. We will be in contact with shortlisted candidates by telephone.

Please be aware that all shortlisted candidates will be requested to complete a 'Self-Disclosure' form before attending their interview.

### Equal Opportunities

Magdalen College School recognises and is committed to ensuring applicants and employees from all sections of the community are treated equally regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, gender reassignment, marital and civil partnership status, or pregnancy and maternity. We welcome applications form all sections of the community.

### Safeguarding Policy

Magdalen College School is committed to the safeguarding of pupils, and any offer of employment will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure, the receipt of satisfactory references, the school's pre-employment medical questionnaire, plus sight of relevant ID documentation and degree certificate(s). The enhanced DBS check is due to this role being exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

# MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL
BOYS 7-18 & SIXTH FORM GIRLS

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