



DURHAM HIGH SCHOOL
Independent Day School
Church of England Foundation
GSA – c400 girls (aged 3-18)
www.dhsfg.org.uk

**INFORMATION FOR THE POSITION OF
TEACHER OF PHYSICS**

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September 2020

Durham High School
A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 6257502
Registered Office: Farewell Hall, South Road, Durham DH1 3TB. Registered Charity No.
1119995
Headmistress: Simone Niblock

AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

- To create a friendly, caring community based on Christian principles where every individual is valued
- To endeavour to develop the potential of every girl
- To encourage academic excellence and a life-long love of learning

QUOTE FROM THE GOOD SCHOOLS' GUIDE

'Top flight single sex school (the only all girls' school in Durham) with all the trimmings.
"A fantastic school - I recommend it to everyone I know" enthused a parent.'

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Durham High School was founded in 1884 by the Church Schools' Company and in 1910 the school's governing body took over and formed an independent school.

The school is a Church of England Foundation and takes seriously its role as a Christian school which welcomes girls of all faiths and none.

The presence of the University and the Cathedral in the heart of the city as well as strong professional and commercial interests ensure that Durham is a thriving community and a centre of intellectual and cultural excellence. Pupils come not only from the city of Durham but also from a very wide surrounding area.

In the 1960s the High School moved to its first purpose-built premises on the edge of the city adjacent to the new Durham University colleges. This began a period of building and expansion which continues to the present day. Recent developments include the Rainbow Hill Nursery, a Science, ICT and Library block and most recently a new building incorporating classrooms for Mathematics and Geography with a purpose built Performing Arts Suite and Music practice rooms.

Durham High School provides a continuous education for girls from 3 – 18, with over 400 girls currently on roll.

The Junior School works very closely with the Senior School. Virtually all Year 6 pupils progress to the Senior School. In the recent inspection Junior House achieved 'excellent' in all areas including EYFS.

The school enjoys a very good reputation locally both for its academic results and for its friendly, caring atmosphere. Classes are small and the pastoral care of pupils is given a very high priority.

The academic standards are very high. The school has consistently topped the County League tables in both GCSE and A level. In 2019, 46% of GCSE entries achieved A⁺ - A and 9-7 on the new grading. At A-Level 47% of the entries achieved A* or A. Pupils invariably obtain a place at the University of their choice; a substantial number win places at Oxford and Cambridge and other Russell Group universities.

The School is keen to widen access as much as possible. There are means-tested bursaries, including some free places, to enable as many girls as possible to attend the school from a wide area. There are also academic scholarships available at 11+ and 16+ together with scholarships in Music, Performing Arts and Sport.

There is an extensive extra-curricular programme with huge enthusiasm for a very wide-ranging number of sporting activities including the traditional girls' sports of hockey, netball and tennis, as well as aerobics and cricket.

The musical life of the school is extensive and of a very high standard. A large proportion of girls take lessons in an instrument and/or voice. There are four choirs, orchestras and there is also an outstanding Drama Department which stages a number of plays every year, including the School's annual production which is performed over three days at Durham's Gala Theatre.

The opportunity to serve both the immediate and wider community is an important part of school life. Other extra-curricular activities include: a Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme with large numbers of girls taking part, including achieving Gold Awards; Young Enterprise; Debating; and numerous trips and visits abroad. A recent initiative was a 'World Challenge' trip for Sixth Form pupils to Vietnam in 2015 and to Sri Lanka in 2017.

The school enjoys excellent relationships with its parent body and there is a thriving Parents and Friends' Association. There is also an active Old Girls' Association and the school is

working very hard at present to ensure that there is regular contact between the school and its alumnae.

Durham High School as a Church of England School

The school is a Church of England foundation with strong links with the Diocese of Durham and Durham Cathedral.

Church of England schools are inclusive and distinctive. As such, we welcome girls of all faiths and none. Religious faiths are valued and respected and we have a significant number of pupils who practise faiths other than Christian. At the same time we strive to be a distinctively Christian school as outlined below.

Christian Values

All staff are expected to be sympathetic to and supportive of the Christian ethos of the school and to model Christian values. As an Anglican priest, the school-based Chaplain has a key role to play in the life of the school.

Applicants are encouraged to familiarise themselves further by viewing the website at www.dhsfg.org.uk to obtain a sense of the work and atmosphere of the school.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE INSPECTION REPORT NOVEMBER 2018

Principal findings

Durham High School succeeded in fulfilling every standard examined during the Regulatory Compliance Inspection carried out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI). Please find a link to the report on our website here:

[2019 Regulatory Compliance Inspection Report](#)

It is important to note that the format of RCI reports is such that each standard is simply 'met' or 'not met': there is no evaluative judgement in the report beyond this.

Format of the inspection and the report

Inspectors visited the School on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 November 2018 and immersed themselves fully in DHSfG school life. They observed lessons; analysed the curriculum; conducted interviews with pupils; and held informal discussions with staff. They attended assemblies and form periods and observed a variety of extra-curricular activities.

DHSfG passed the Inspection in every one of the eight compliance requirements. These included the standards of the quality of education provided; the suitability of the staff and those in contact with the pupils; the welfare of the girls; and the moral, social and cultural development of all our girls. We met every requirement, as did the standards relating to the premises and the provision of information to parents, Inspectors and the Department of Education.

In relation to the quality of leadership and management of the School, leaders fulfil all responsibilities effectively to ensure that standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils.

MAIN FINDINGS OF THE ISI INSPECTION REPORT 2015

Press release from January 2016

Durham High School is celebrating the glowing report received this week following an inspection by the Independent Schools' Inspectorate (ISI) in December.

The inspectors' main findings are that 'the School provides an excellent atmosphere for learning that is particularly suited to able girls, enabling them to achieve highly in both academic subjects and a wide range of sporting, musical and other activities'.

Headmistress, Lynne Renwick, said: 'we are particularly delighted that the inspection team judged as 'excellent' the contribution of teaching, the quality of the pupils' achievements and learning and our pastoral care.'

This excellent report comes as the High School has topped the government's GCSE and A level league tables in the North East, confirming its reputation as one of the best in the country. Four Sixth Formers have recently been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities to read Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Classics.

The School's extra-curricular provision was also described by inspectors as 'excellent'. Girls are currently busy rehearsing the musical 'Loserville' to be performed in Durham's Gala Theatre later this month and the U14 netball team has just qualified for the National Schools Netball Finals.

Educating girls from Nursery through to Sixth Form all on one site, Durham High is very much a family school. The inspectors noted that 'throughout the School, relationships between the staff and pupils are warm, based on mutual respect. Pupils appreciate the generous support their teachers provide.'

* *See school website for full Inspection Report*

THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

Current Staffing

Full-time Head of Department and full-time Physics teacher.
The post of Physics teacher becomes available due to retirement.

Organisation of the Department

Physics is taught as a separate subject from Year 7. In Years 7 and 8 the students have three 65 minute periods of each Science subject per fortnight and are taught in mixed ability tutor groups. The National Curriculum programmes of study are followed at Key Stage 3 in Years 7 and 8, based around the AQA KS3 schemes of work. The AQA specification for GCSE Physics is followed in Year 9, as the students commence their Key Stage 4 studies.

At the end of Year 9, students opt to either, follow the AQA specification for GCSE Physics or the AQA specification for Combined Science: Trilogy. While numbers vary slightly from year to year, approximately half of students normally opt for the separate sciences. There are usually two groups for the separate sciences, determined by the students' other options, and two groups for Combined Science: Trilogy. Most students are entered for the higher tier of the examination.

The Science Department is successful at recruiting for A-level from our own internal students and others from outside who join the Sixth Form. All the Sciences follow the AQA A-level specifications. In 2019-20 there is one L6 and one U6 A-level Physics class. Teaching of Physics A-level is shared by the Head of Physics and the Teacher of Physics.

Facilities

The Science Department designed and moved into new purpose built laboratories in 2003 and the facilities are still in pristine condition. There are two laboratories for each of the three sciences with an office for each Head of Department, a large preparation room, greenhouse and staff room. The laboratories are on the first floor of the building with the library and IT facilities on the ground floor. All the laboratories are well equipped with data projectors and IT facilities and there is a class set of laptop computers available for use. The School ensures that the Department is always well resourced with equipment and textbooks. The Department is supported by a Laboratory Manager and team of technicians.

The Science Department

The Head of Science (who is also Head of Chemistry) and the Heads of Physics and Biology work closely together and hold fortnightly meetings to discuss issues relating to the teaching of the sciences throughout the School.

2019 Academic Results

GCSE Physics 54% 9-7 (AQA national average 44%), 100% 9-4.

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy 26% 9-7 (AQA national average 8%), 100% 9-4.

A level Physics 50% A*/A, 100% A*-C.

Extracurricular Activities

All staff contribute to at least one extracurricular activity which may or may not be related to their specialism. The Science department organises trips and participates in competitions across all Key Stages. For example in 2019 a Year 8 STEM club project was selected as the North East Regional Winner of the Shell Bright Ideas Challenge and a group of Sixth Form students were taken to visit CERN in Geneva. All teachers help to link curriculum learning with careers and promote extracurricular learning opportunities such as Smallpeice and Engineering Development Trust courses. There is an extracurricular club 'Science Sparks' for enthusiastic Year 6 pupils from a variety of partnership primary schools, and our own Junior House Girls.

THE ROLE OF TEACHER

Teachers are responsible through the Head of Department to the Head. Their role in implementing School policies and conveying the ethos of the School and its aims and values is crucial in ensuring the success and effectiveness of the whole School.

Aims

- To sustain and improve the quality of education and the education opportunities offered to pupils;
- To promote and work in accordance with the School's agreed ethos;
- To ensure a safe and appropriate working environment for pupils.

Responsibilities of Teacher

1. Curriculum

- To teach as directed by the Head, implementing the School's agreed policies;
- To teach in accordance with the policies and schemes of work of the department;
- To mark pupils' work according to department policy;
- To keep up to date with developments in education;
- To attend meetings when required;
- To follow the School's Recording and Assessment Policy;
- To provide written reports on pupils' progress when required by the Head;
- To attend Parents' Meetings and to meet with parents at other times as necessary;
- To maintain effective discipline through the implementation of the School's agreed policies;
- To implement changes and developments as required by the Head of Department;
- To follow Health and Safety procedures.

2. CPD

- To take part in CPD and other training courses as required by the Head.

3. Communication

- To attend staff meetings (part-time teachers should attend staff meetings if they would normally be in School on that afternoon);
- To read the Staff Handbook and to work in accordance with the daily routine of the School as outlined in this document;
- To read and act upon the information posted daily on the Staffroom notice board and any other relevant information.

4. Resources

- To ensure that the department's resources are used appropriately and kept in good order;
- To keep a record of all books and equipment issued to pupils.

5. General

- To attend public occasions;
- To contribute to the School's extra-curricular programme;
- To undertake lunch and/or breaktime duties as required.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Further to the general responsibilities, the ideal candidate for the role of Physics Teacher will possess the following attributes:

- Graduate in a relevant degree who is able to teach A-level Physics and support pupils to achieve academic excellence in Physics
- Qualified teacher willing to teach Physics across all Key Stages
- Skill in teaching through practical work
- Ability to inspire pupils to pursue further study and careers in STEM subjects
- Commitment to encouraging confidence in pupils who are challenged by Physics
- Enthusiasm for participating in STEM extra-curricular activities
- Interest in developing the resources of the Physics department to support effective teaching, learning and assessment
- Excellent communication skills and IT skills
- Good organisational and time management skills
- A flexible team player with the ability to maintain a sense of humour

We would welcome applications from both NQTs and experienced teachers.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Please complete the application form (available from the School's website) and submit this with a covering letter outlining your reasons for applying and what you feel you can bring to the post. This should be addressed for the attention of the Headmistress and sent by e-mail to j.ridley@dhsfg.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Noon, Monday 27 January

Interviews will be held: Week commencing Monday 27 January 2020

The successful candidate will take up the appointment from September 2020.

DBS

Durham High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure.

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

Durham High School
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