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**History Teacher**

The Oratory Preparatory School (OPS) is a Roman Catholic day and boarding school for boys and girls from 3 to 13. Founded by Blessed John Henry Newman in 1859, the school welcomes both staff and pupils of other denominations and faiths. There are around 430 pupils in the school, 310 of them in prep, 120 in the pre-prep part of the school. The school is set in 60 acres of beautiful countryside on the edge of the Chiltern Hills, nine miles north of Reading. The school opened a new Nursery building - *Little Oaks* - in January 2014.

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 Management 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, which includes accompanying day and residential trips and tours. The Teacher of History will be line-managed by his or her Heads of Department – who report to the Deputy Head (Academic) - but will report ultimately to the Headmaster.

Many boys from the OPS move on to The Oratory School at 13, although we have also sent boys to schools such as Eton, Wellington, Radley, Marlborough, Harrow and Abingdon in recent years. Girls move on at 13 or occasionally 11 to the local day/boarding schools such as Queen Anne’s and The School of St Helen and St Katharine or to girls’ schools such as Headington, St Mary’s Ascot or the co-educational schools mentioned above. We have an enviable record of scholarships in a broad range of disciplines.

We are looking to appoint a passionate Teacher of History. Ideally, the successful candidate would be able to offer Games to Junior and Senior pupils. We are happy to receive applications from both newly Qualified Teachers and more experienced teachers.

**The History Department**

Our History Department cultivates a whole-school curiosity for the subject. We have an illustrious reputation and we unashamedly declare our aim of being the subject that the children enjoy the most! We recognize the maxim that “teachers are no longer the sole guardians of knowledge”. Our teaching is geared around problem-solving, knowledge-hunting and story-telling, rather than on constant layering of knowledge. At OPS, History is taught with the aim of fostering each pupil’s lifelong interest in the history of this country 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, with external results placing us as a ‘top three’ department in the school. Not that it matters. What matters more is that our children come away with a love for learning about the past.

**Job Description:**

The person appointed will:

* Be an excellent teacher with high expectations in teaching and learning, above all able to inspire curiosity in children.

* Show a genuine commitment and passion for History and its value as part of the prep school curriculum.

* Have the ability to motivate and manage a range of pupils in a practical teaching environment, fostering enjoyment, exploration and creativity.

* 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 department.
* 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.

* 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 player, supporting other members of the department, attending meetings and being willing to contribute to evaluation, planning and development in order to move the department forwards.

* Liaise with the HoD and other 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.

* Make a positive contribution to the History Department, including marking examinations, attending departmental meetings, undertaking administrative and other tasks as reasonably requested by the Head of Department.
* Be an enthusiastic 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 Games sessions on a regular basis, as part of the Games staff.
* Participate in duties such as minibus driving and life guarding, as required as part of the teaching staff.
* Fulfil 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.

**Person Specification**

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

1. be an excellent teacher with high expectations in teaching and learning
2. Excellent organisational and administrative skills
3. The ability to work independently
4. Excellent communication skills, both written and oral
5. Excellent interpersonal skills, in order to interact successfully with pupils, parents and staff
6. An excellent work ethic and commitment to the school and its pupils
7. Be smart and professional in appearance and manner
8. 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. All staff must contribute to the Teachers’ Pensions Scheme. Other benefits include free gym membership and meals whilst on duty and being situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The post is for January 2019, but could be up to September 2019 for the right candidate. Closing date is 25th November 2019.

**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](mailto: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**