



# TEACHER OF HISTORY AND POLITICS

## Information Pack

Completed applications should be emailed to [recruitment@mgs.org](mailto:recruitment@mgs.org)

Closing date: 9am Monday 20 January 2025

# WELCOME TO MGS

Welcome to The Manchester Grammar School, and thank you for your interest in joining us.

Our history dates back to the time of Henry VIII, when The Manchester Grammar School was founded in 1515 by Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter, to provide 'godliness and good learning' to the poor boys of Manchester.

The School proceeded to build a reputation as one of the country's leading educational establishments, a position it still holds today as an independent day school.

Much has changed in the intervening five hundred years, but our core mission to educate the brightest young men in the North of England regardless of their social, cultural, religious and financial background, has not.

We aim to teach boys to think for themselves and to develop a life-long love of learning. Lessons are taught by academic specialists with a passion for their subject, and teaching goes well beyond the narrow confines of examination syllabuses, offering our students the best preparation for the very top universities, both in this country and abroad.

There is, however, much more to an MGS education than what happens in the classroom. What makes this School truly special is the outstanding achievement of our pupils in areas such as sport, music and drama, and in keeping with Hugh Oldham's aims we produce well-rounded young men who have a true sense of service to their communities.

I do hope that you will enjoy finding out more about us.

**Martin Boulton**  
**High Master**



# THE ROLE

We are seeking to appoint, from 1 September 2025, a teacher of History and Politics.

Teachers at MGS benefit from being members of the Teacher Pension Scheme (TPS).

We are looking for a talented, committed and enthusiastic teacher, whether experienced or newly qualified, who is able to provide challenging and enriching teaching and share their passion for both History and Politics. A keen commitment to achieving academic success and developing intellectual engagement amongst the pupils is essential. The person appointed would work in both departments; the exact balance of their timetable between the two subjects will be discussed at interview and may be subject to a degree of variation from year to year. This is permanent contract and full-time position.

Both Politics and History are extremely popular and thriving subjects with large numbers of students opting to study History at GCSE and A level and Politics at A level. Both departments have an excellent record in public examinations and many pupils go on to study related subjects at other Oxbridge and other leading universities.

In addition to teaching, the person appointed will be expected to take on a pastoral role as a tutor to a group of pupils, and play a full and active part in the co-curricular life of the School.



# THE DEPARTMENTS

## History

The History department is large and thriving department, comprising of eleven full-time teachers. Results in public examinations are consistently outstanding, with typically 95% 9-7 at IGCSE and 96% A\*-B or equivalent at A-level.

Courses followed in the first two years (Years 7-8) broadly echo the National Curriculum guidelines, involving a study of a variety of aspects of medieval history beginning with the Norman Conquest and then a project on the impact of Migration in Britain. The Year 8 course follows the broad theme of "Global and Local History," starting with 17<sup>th</sup> century British history before looking globally and exploring the British Empire, the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the impact of Empire. The Year 9 course explores the First World War, the Russian Revolution and Nazi Germany. All boys study History to the end of Year 9 and the majority opt to continue History to GCSE, which follows the CIE IGCSE 20<sup>th</sup> century syllabus. In the Sixth Form, we allow staff to teach their academic interests as much as possible: we currently offer US Civil Rights, Middle East 1908 – 2011, Russia 1894 – 1941, USA 1803 – 1890 as well as allowing students to write coursework on any topic they wish. History is a very popular subject and, since September 2022, we have followed the OCR History specification. Members of the department also provide specialist History enrichment teaching in our innovative Junior School curriculum.

We have active History societies for all sections of the school and regular speakers from universities. There is a Sixth Form History magazine, "The Shoardian", which pupils can write for. There are regular trips at weekends for the Lower School. The department runs a wide variety of trips for pupils, including an annual European battlefields trip to Ypres and the Somme, Normandy or Berlin on a rotating basis. Other recent departmental trips include visits to Washington DC and Gallipoli/Istanbul.

## Politics

Politics is a thriving and dynamic department; the subject is an increasingly popular choice at A-Level for pupils who are looking to learn about British and American politics, as well as political philosophy, in an academic and analytical way. MGS follows the AQA specification.

Results in A-Level examinations are outstanding (94% A\*-B in 2024). This reflects our pupil-led approach to teaching and focus on exam technique, which secures the best outcomes for our pupils. We encourage teachers in the department to make use of the technology available and to foster a love of learning, and for the subject. Teachers incorporate examples of recent political events into their lessons in an academic and factual way, encouraging pupils to link current political events to the exam specification and what they are learning in lessons. The department hosts a number of politicians each year to bring real life politics to the classroom. We also offer weekly support sessions for pupils who need extra guidance and help.

Outside the classroom, teachers in the Politics department assist pupils with their university applications by offering lunchtime academic seminars, personal statement advice, mock interviews for pupils applying for Politics related subjects at Oxford or Cambridge University as well as assisting pupils with their external essay competition entries. Lunchtime Politics societies for pupils in younger years are something we have provided in the past and hope to re-start in the future.

# WHY WORK AT MGS?

## The School

The Manchester Grammar School is an exciting, stimulating and rewarding community in which to work.

The School was founded in 1515 to prepare able boys from the Manchester area, regardless of their background, to go to Oxford or Cambridge. MGS has gained an international reputation for academic excellence and enjoys a strong record of success with top universities, both in the UK and overseas.

We take our motto, Sapere Aude, ('Dare to be Wise'), as meaning that we must challenge our pupils and expect to be challenged by them, and this is one of the things which makes teaching at MGS so rewarding.

## Our teachers

We value our teachers and offer a wide range of benefits, including:

- The Manchester Grammar School has its own generous salary scale, significantly above main scale rates
- Membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme
- Access to private medical insurance
- Approximately 16 weeks school holiday a year
- An extensive range of bespoke professional development opportunities
- Salary sacrifice scheme for cycle to work
- Significant discount on School fees
- Employee assistance programme
- Use of the School's extensive library facility
- Free use of the onsite gym and swimming pool
- Staff-led activities such as yoga classes and book clubs
- Free car parking on site



People who teach at MGS come from every walk of life, but all have a love of their subject and the ability to inspire and challenge able pupils.

Every year, we welcome ECTs as well as experienced teachers into the Staff Common Room. We expect all applicants to have an excellent degree; however, a teaching qualification is not essential, and we provide support for those who wish to become qualified after appointment. We are deeply committed to the professional development of our staff. Teachers who have taught for a number of years often join us to gain extra experience before moving on to become a head of department or take up a pastoral role elsewhere. Many colleagues leave us to take up deputy headships and headships; likewise, many staff choose to stay with us.



### **Our co-curriculum**

The co-curriculum is central to the ethos of MGS. Life outside the classroom is extraordinarily vibrant, both in terms of its diversity and quantity. It is a source of great enjoyment and challenge for our pupils and staff alike. It includes a great range of sport, music, drama, adventure, volunteering and intellectual activities.

The School values the passion and commitment of its teachers in sharing their interests and enthusiasms with pupils outside of the classroom and seeks to enable staff to play to their passions whenever possible. Staff are given significant autonomy over the activities they organise, and our pupils are given equal freedom to develop passions of their own. All staff are expected to commit to our co-curricular programme and you can expect to be asked about this at interview.

We have lunchtime clubs and societies (many run by pupils) covering every possible area of intellectual interest. We have 24 musical groups with 280 participants, and typically stage a dozen drama productions each year, in our superbly equipped theatre and drama studios. We have 95 sports teams and 40 different sports. In outdoor pursuits every year we have numerous treks in the UK and overseas, as well as four camps involving 250 pupils. We offer a wide range of outdoor

pursuits and are one of the largest centres for D of E in the North West. Alongside this there is a vast range of educational trips and visits, both in the UK and abroad. On average, each pupil spends twelve days a year on trips. Visit our website to find out more.

### **Our pupils**

The School comprises 1650 boys in Years 3 to 13. All boys are assessed for entry on the basis of their potential by observing their individual talents over the course of an assessment day. A formal entrance exam only plays a part in entry to Year 7; pupils awarded places in the Junior School are given entry to the Senior School. Entry standards are high with successful applicants performing well above national averages. Our admissions policy aims to be needs-blind to enable the School to be a diverse community of talented individuals from all backgrounds.

Boys come from across the North-West and from every type of background, and the boys who join the School each year come in equal numbers from maintained and independent primary schools.



### **Bursaries and social mobility**

MGS's Foundation Bursary Appeal has been one of the most successful appeal of its kind held by any school and is a cornerstone of our ethos. Its aim is to ensure that a place at MGS is available to any boy who passes our entrance assessments, regardless of his family's financial background. More than 200 boys currently receive full or partial means-tested bursaries. (The average bursary is 90% of the school fee). Our long-term ambition is to be needs-blind, so that every boy who passes our entrance assessments can take up a place, regardless of his parents' ability to pay.

## **Our facilities**

Facilities are excellent. Recent developments have included a new sports hall, international standard hockey astro-turf and tennis courts, and the purchase of a new Steinway Model D grand piano for the Memorial Hall. We have an exceptionally equipped theatre and drama studios and award-winning Junior School buildings. A state of the art Sixth Form Centre is under construction and due to open in 2025.

## **Manchester and the North-West**

Manchester is a vibrant and exciting place, as you would fully expect of Britain's second city. One of the fastest growing cities in Europe, it has a cosmopolitan outlook, a flourishing, varied cultural life and excellent restaurants and nightlife. It is a wonderful, stimulating place to live, with outstanding sport and leisure facilities, catering for every possible interest.

Whilst offering all that you would expect from a major city, Manchester has the advantage of being very accessible and enjoys excellent transport links. London is only two hours away by train and Manchester's international airport is only five miles from the School. The Peak District National Park, the Pennine Way and the Cheshire Plain are within an hour's drive, whilst the Lake District and Snowdonia can be reached in less than two hours.



# HOW TO APPLY

Candidates of any age and any level of experience are invited to apply. Appropriate induction and support will be given. MGS provides full support to enable ECTs to obtain QTS. Further information about the School is available on our website.

Applicants should complete an application form: this can be downloaded from the vacancies section of the School's website, and emailed to [recruitment@mgs.org](mailto:recruitment@mgs.org). The closing date is 9.00am on Monday 20 January 2025, and we expect to hold interviews shortly after.

The Manchester Grammar School is an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from all sections of the community. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and successful applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Both our Safer Recruitment policy, and Safeguarding and Child Protection policy may be viewed on our website (click on 'our policies' at the bottom of the homepage).

***We would like to thank all applicants for their interest in the School and for taking the time to apply. However, please note that, because of the high volume of applications we receive, we regret that we are unable to reply individually to each application.***

December 2024