



Head of School: Tom Goodenough
Executive Headteacher: Rachael Warwick MA (Oxon)

Wednesday 27th September 2017

Dear Applicant

Teacher of Science

Thank you for enquiring about this exciting post. Please find an application form, other recruitment material, and copy of the school's prospectus on the school website under the 'Join Us' tab.

Didcot Girls' School is a dynamic school. In December 2015, the school was judged to be Outstanding. As Ofsted recognised, we invest in all of our staff: **'Staff have exceptional opportunities for professional development. Staff feel valued and really like working in the school. Morale is very high.'**(Ofsted). Employing the right staff is key to our success. Actively involved in every interview process, I believe that valuing and developing our staff is the best way to release their potential. In return, I seek staff who are passionate about working with young people, resilient, and with a truly growth mindset. If this is you, we look forward to hearing from you!

We are a values-driven school, committed to high quality teaching and learning and respectful relationships within an inclusive learning community. Developing stimulating and student-centred teaching and learning is at the centre of our school development work. We work hard to ensure that all girls' education enables our students to develop confidence, leadership skills and high levels of aspiration. Our ethos is based on the growth mindset approach that 'Dreams don't work unless you do.' (John C. Maxwell). If you have not already done so, I recommend that you visit our website to gain an insight into the vibrant ethos of our school community.

Didcot Girls' School is an 11-18 girls' comprehensive school with academy status with approximately 1350 students on roll. GCSE results this summer were superb once more, placing the school in the top 20% of schools nationally for both progress (provisional P8 of +0.39) and attainment (provisional A8 of 50.54). 74% of our 179 Year 11 students achieved a Grade 9 - 4 (equivalent of Grade C) and above in English and Maths. Results at the highest levels are also outstanding across all subjects and 31 students achieved 6 or more grades at A*/A or grade 7-9. The school is genuinely comprehensive and our catchment area includes students from areas of relative deprivation as well as affluent socio-economic backgrounds. We are delighted to welcome increasing numbers of students from different cultures and we celebrate the diversity this brings to our school community. We run a large and successful mixed sixth form of approximately 350 students with St Birinus, the boys' school in Didcot. In September 2015, St Birinus School joined Didcot Girls' School in our multi-academy trust, the Didcot Academy of Schools. This partnership promises excellent opportunities and development for staff across both school sites.

The Post

This is a key role in an excellent and high performing department. We are looking for someone with a genuine and infectious passion for teaching Science who will enthuse and engage the students they teach; someone with high expectations for all students whatever their prior attainment.



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The successful applicant will teach across KS3 and KS4 and there is plenty of opportunity to teach A level Science in our large mixed sixth form.. We are happy to accept applications from teachers with a Chemistry, Biology or Physics specialism, although Chemistry is preferred. Excellent professional development and support will be available to the successful candidate.

A pastoral or curriculum leadership responsibility may be available for the right candidate. Please signal in your application should you wish to discuss this opportunity at interview, providing a little context regarding your current interests and areas for professional development.

The Department

The Science Department is staffed by a large and supportive group of 13 teaching staff, an HLTA who is also STEM Leader for the school and four technicians. In 2016, GCSE Science results were 'Sig+' (significantly above) national averages for pupil progress across Additional, Core and Triple Science. Whilst progress figures are currently provisional for 2017, achievement is strong with 75% of students across all Sciences and over 94% of students in Triple Sciences achieving A*-C grades. A level results in Physics, Chemistry and Biology are strong and on an upwards trajectory. Students are actively engaged with Science and enjoy the challenges and opportunities it presents.

Accommodation

- 10 science laboratories all with ceiling mounted projectors
- 1 teaching room with a ceiling mounted projector
- 1 computer suite with 16 computers for students
- Science workroom
- 3 Prep rooms

Curriculum

In Years 7 and 8 (KS3) pupils follow the Activate Scheme of work.

KS4 starts in Year 9 with the majority of students following the AQA Combined Science: Trilogy course. Approximately a third of each Year 8 cohort is invited to take the Single Science courses and will begin this course in Year 9.

Science options are very popular in the joint Sixth Form: we offer Biology, Chemistry and Physics at Didcot Girls' School and groups in these subjects also run at St Birinus School.

Supra-Curricular Activities

We have a very strong enrichment programme for our students including regular trips, competitions and weekly science clubs for both upper and lower school. We enjoy strong links with the international science bases at Harwell-Oxford and Culham which provide further exceptional learning opportunities for our students. Many students take on roles as Science Ambassadors, promoting the subject to other students through House competitions, options evenings, open evenings and assemblies.



Applications

Please enclose the following with your application:

- Application form – please pay close attention to the ‘Relevant Skills and Experiences’ section
- A response (maximum 2 sides of A4 in 11 point) to the following question: ‘What does excellent teaching look like in Science?’

Should you wish to tour the school in advance of making an application we would be delighted to welcome you. Please contact the Head of School’s PA, Frances Adley at fadley@didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk to arrange a suitable time. The deadline for applications is Friday 13th October. Interviews are scheduled for the week beginning Monday 16th October. Completed applications should be sent to Frances Adley at the above email address. Please be aware that you will be required to bring your original Degree Certificate, proof of residence and your Disclosure and Barring Service or CRB certificate, if applicable, to your interview.

I thank you for your interest in this exciting post and wish you well with your application.

Yours sincerely



Tom Goodenough
Head of School

Didcot Girls’ School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



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