



Job Information Pack

Teacher of French and/or Spanish

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Snapshots of QES



Photos

Clockwise from top left: Students in science lesson, performance of Jesus Christ Superstar, boys' 100m on QES Sports Day and staff fancy dress on World Book Day



Introduction to QES

General School Details



Queen Elizabeth School, Kirkby Lonsdale, is an 11-18, co-ed, non-denominational, all-ability school which has 1,390 pupils, of whom well over 300 are in the Sixth Form. It serves a large, prosperous and beautiful area of South Lakeland, North Yorkshire and North Lancashire with pupils drawn from as far away as Sedbergh, Clapham, Lancaster, Silverdale and Kendal.

Although a rural school, QES is only 6 miles from the M6 and twenty minutes from a main West Coast train station which promotes easy access and helps explain the outward-looking vibrancy of Kirkby Lonsdale.

The School has a fine tradition of “scholarship and care” dating back over 400 years, with its present popularity founded upon high quality teaching and learning, a broad and imaginative curriculum geared to individuals, excellent results, impressive standards of care and a reputation for a friendly, relaxed yet purposeful atmosphere. Most significantly, QES is founded on ten core values which underpin and inform the life and work of the School and which promote our sense of community. We are committed to a broad education in the deepest sense and with a strong emphasis on personal development. That said, we expect students of all abilities and categories to achieve in the top 25% nationally and our achievements at GCSE and A Level have consistently demonstrated that the majority do.

We have been considered an ‘outstanding’ school by Ofsted for many years with the top rating in all categories; our enduring motivation, though, is to make limitless progress beyond that benchmark. Formerly we had specialisms in the Performing Arts, Languages and as a Training



School. Latterly we became one of the first Teaching Schools. It is fair to say that QES is strong in all areas and, as well as being a top school academically, the astonishing music, dance and drama produced is of national standard. In both boys' and girls' sport we have enviable success and aim to compete with schools of all types across the region, nationally and even internationally. The school became an Academy in December 2010 and continues to be part of the well-established and highly regarded South Lakes Federation.

In September 2017, QES will develop as the Lunesdale Learning Trust to incorporate a new Free School (the QE Studio School) to be built by 2018 at a cost of several millions on the present site and providing high quality professional, technical and vocational learning to 300 14-18 year-olds.

The School has a mix of established staff and many more recently arrived. Turnover is exceptionally low; levels of expertise, as well as morale, are high. Teachers enjoy very positive relationships with pupils and are committed to providing not only excellent teaching but also a full range of extra-curricular activities. Our Support staff are excellent – talented and highly committed! QES enjoys a positive relationship with the local community and the PTA is flourishing. The Trustees of the new MAT and the Governors of QES and QE Studio School are a highly professional body, owning the land and property and employing staff directly. Over the years QES has developed a self-managing, confident and independent culture while preserving strong links with neighbouring schools and the LA. Relationships at QES are excellent; the school has a strong community spirit and a common sense of purpose. Many visitors feel the School has a very special atmosphere.

The School site, on the edge of the picturesque market town of Kirkby Lonsdale, is particularly attractive and the characterful buildings show evidence of additional phases from the 1840s to the present day. Since 1996 the School has completed a number of successive high-quality building projects and the site is striking, attractive, colourful, bright and civilised. Landscaping projects have given form, shape and coherence to the site adding avenues, courtyards, gardens and an amphitheatre. New Design Technology accommodation is nearing completion, new indoor PE accommodation will be in place by summer 2017, considerable development of the 'Main School' is about to commence and, of course the new school is set to emerge. It's a lovely place to learn.



All in all, the School is very favoured. Someone coming to work here, as well as enjoying the advantages of the natural environment, can expect the opportunity to encounter pleasant, amenable, motivated students and friendly supportive colleagues and will be given every opportunity to pursue his/her professional development while being encouraged to perform to the highest standards.



Job Details

Teacher of French and/or Spanish



Post	Teacher of French and/or Spanish
Hours	Full time preferred
Person	Post suitable for NQT or someone seeking more responsibility
Start Date	September 2017

Thank you for accessing details of the above post. I hope these details will give you an impression of an exciting opportunity to make an important contribution in one of the country's best schools. To that end, I include details about the School, the job and the Modern Languages Department at QES. I would strongly urge you to get more of a 'feel' for the life of the school by visiting our website www.queenelizabeth.cumbria.sch.uk . I appreciate that there is much in addition that you would want to know and I can assure you that at the interview stage we will share with you as much as is feasible. If there is anything specific you wish to know at this stage please don't hesitate to get in touch.



The Post

Teaching a Modern Language these days is a challenging job but while this post will undoubtedly involve pressure, intensity and sheer hard work, it will also be highly rewarding and hopefully a lot of fun. The personnel in our Modern Languages department are all specialists and most offer two languages so we are flexible as to whether we appoint a French or Spanish teacher or someone offering both. We'd prefer the post to be full-time although we're actually open-minded about the profile of person we appoint and at what level this post will be filled and remunerated. So...

- The post could be suitable for an NQT and indeed the QES Modern Languages Department would be a great place to learn how to be a happy and successful teacher
- Or, the post might attract a more experienced person keen to develop leadership qualities before becoming a Head of Modern Languages
- Or, the post might be appealing to a great French or Spanish teacher confident enough in their abilities to be keen to develop an interest in Pastoral work, a significant strength of the school
- Or, the post might be perfect for a French/Spanish teacher, passionate about their subject, but with a conviction that working in 6th Form leadership is where they see their career headed.

Whichever category you're in, the substantive post will require someone who is able, willing and confident to teach right across the age and ability range to A level. There is also an expectation that the person appointed will be wanting to develop a career and to that end will be keen to make a significant contribution to the QES community. In other words, this post is more than just a job.

The Person

With the development of the QE Studio School this is a critical time in the School and new Trust's history and in order to ensure the development of a successful school ambitious to improve still further, we intend to appoint only staff of the highest ability or with the greatest promise. Working at QES is demanding but the rewards are commensurate in a school with a



strong, highly motivated staff, very good facilities, a lovely environment and pleasant, friendly and highly motivated pupils.

We expect to appoint a teacher of French/Spanish who has:

- A keen intellect and an excellent academic background with a very good degree
- Either a great track record of success or, in the case of an NQT, great promise as a teacher
- Compelling personal qualities, an ability to form positive relationships with people and the ability to enthuse and inspire both pupils and staff
- Impeccable administrative abilities and a highly efficient demeanour
- An ability to communicate effectively
- The ability to work hard under pressure
- A sense of humour and proportion
- A commitment to enhancing the community or extra-curricular life of the school
- A commitment to professional development

These lists may seem daunting but please do understand that QES has a supportive ethos and a commitment to structured professional development. The person appointed can expect much help, guidance and support from colleagues, school leaders, Nick Verney, Head of Department and, of course, the current Modern Language staff.

Your Application

If you feel you wish to apply, please complete all sections of the application form and return to me **as soon as possible but certainly no later than 14th February 2017** together with a letter which must include the following in no more than 2 sides A4:

- an outline of your relevant experience
- a discussion of your personal and professional qualities which you believe suit you for this post
- a statement as to why this particular job appeals to you
- a mention of any constraints or circumstances which you want to make us aware of at this stage.



It is hoped to hold interviews in February and if you haven't heard by the end of that month, I'm afraid in this instance you will not have been successful.

I do hope you will take the time to apply. QES is a marvellous school in which to work and this is a very exciting opportunity. If you require further information or wish to discuss any issues, please do feel free to get in touch. In the meantime, good luck with your application. I look forward possibly to meeting you in the near future.

Chris Clarke
January 2017



Department Details

Languages



The Languages Department at QES is an exciting place to be. In 2007, in recognition of its outstanding results, QES was awarded Language College status, and since then the department has gone from strength to strength. We are also a supportive, friendly department with a down to earth attitude to the teaching and learning of languages and we regularly host trainee teachers who keep us up to date with new strategies and ideas.

There are 4 full-time and 4 part-time teachers of languages:

Ms Hayley Gray - Assistant Headteacher / Director of Languages (German/French)

Mr Nick Verney - Head of Department (French/Spanish)

Mrs Sarah Armitstead – Second in Department, Head of Spanish (Spanish/French)

Ms Sally Stephens- French and Spanish

Mrs Sarah Lomax - Spanish and French

Ms Dawn Sargeant - French and Spanish

Mrs Emma Buchanan – German and French



Miss Jane Bradshaw – Spanish and French

We also have three part-time language assistants who primarily teach our A-level conversation classes. We are lucky to have them and they are an important part of our department, playing an extremely important role in supporting our A-level students and bringing a native language speaker element to QES.

French is taught as the first foreign language in Year 7 and groups are taught in mixed-ability forms. They have 5 hours of French over the 2-week timetable.

In Year 8 the year is divided into 2 populations and Spanish is introduced. These groups have 4 hours of Spanish and 3 hours of French over the 2-week timetable. This pattern continues for most groups in Year 9, where they have 3 hours of Spanish and 4 hours of French over the fortnight. Our lower sets decide upon either French or Spanish for their Year 9 language lessons.

At KS4, both languages are offered as options and German is introduced as a GCSE course. Take up is consistently healthy and pupils are motivated to learn languages and encouraged to opt for it and achieve the EBacc. We achieve excellent results at GCSE in all our languages, and we are proud of the hard work our students put in for their GCSEs.

French, Spanish and German are all offered at AS and A-level. Take up is strong for a non-selective comprehensive school and we are proud that each year we have a good number of pupils continuing with languages at Universities across the UK, including Oxford and Cambridge. Our ex-students maintain strong links with us and often come in to speak to pupils about their experiences as languages students at University.

There is a positive attitude to languages amongst pupils and they are motivated to do well and get involved both in lessons and beyond. We have several very successful languages clubs including an Italian club, a German club and an International film club, and pupils regularly come to seek support in our languages clinic that we run each week with the help of Sixth Form language students.



We also run extremely successful languages trips to France, Spain and Germany each year and we are always looking for new opportunities to encourage and enthuse our pupils about languages.

As a department we work very closely together and it is our combined experience, the sharing of ideas and our enthusiasm for languages and that make us such a strong team. The support and good humour in the department is just another part of what makes teaching languages at QES so enjoyable.

Mr N Verney – Head of MFL



Next Steps How to Apply



We very much hope you will apply for either of these posts.

You can find our Application Form together with Guidance Notes here:

- On the TES job page – see the links at the bottom of the page
- Or on the QES website – [click here for our Jobs page](#).

We would also encourage all potential applicants to browse our school website to get a fuller flavour of life at this very special place – [click here for our website homepage](#)

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the QES Office on 015242 71275.