

## Teacher of English and Second in Department APRIL 2022

Whitgift is one of Britain's leading independent day and boarding schools for boys aged between 10 and 18 years with approximately 1550 pupils and over a hundred boarding or flexi-boarding pupils. The School, which was founded in 1596 by Elizabeth I's last Archbishop of Canterbury, John Whitgift, is one of the oldest in Croydon and enjoys facilities of outstanding quality, amongst the best available nationally. It is set in an attractive 48-acre parkland site in South Croydon with excellent links to London, Surrey and the south coast.

### The Department



English is taught by a well-qualified, experienced team of seventeen teachers. The Department is well-resourced, with a strong budget which allows us to have an extremely large book stock, to invite in speakers and visiting performances of high quality and to organise numerous trips to London theatres. We also aim to stimulate a love of literature and writing through various competitions, clubs and societies as well as annual trips to the Hay-on-Wye Literary Festival with junior boys, Stratford-Upon-Avon for the Middle School, and to the Lake District with senior students to study the Romantics.

The English Department at Whitgift is particularly innovative and energetic. Public examination results have been extremely good in recent years. At A Level, the 2021 A\*-B pass rate was 95% and at GCSE English Language, 99% of pupils achieved 9 - 7 grades. The IB results were 100% at level 7 or 6.

The Department prides itself on the freedom offered across the age range to individual teachers to select their own teaching texts and develop their own Schemes of Work, within the set syllabus. Ideas are regularly shared, and it is a creative environment in which to teach. The Department also has a thriving co-curricular life with several literature-related societies, a journalism club and a drama society, and a number of English Department staff direct or help produce plays. We are keen to employ a team player with a lively approach, who is able to contribute fully to this strong, cohesive and stimulating department.



The Department is very busy and expectations within the School are very high. The successful candidate must be confident, proactive and reflective about their teaching, has excellent communication skills, is capable of contributing positively within a team and is committed to raising attainment through excellent teaching and learning.

## Curriculum

Boys are prepared for the IGCSE 9-1 (Edexcel) examinations in English and English Literature. The A Level course is the OCR specification. Since 2004 the International Baccalaureate has also been offered as an alternative to A Level study and is a stimulating option for pupils and teachers. About 100 boys study English in the Sixth Form. We run a Literary Society to augment the curriculum for Sixth Formers and offer additional sessions in preparation for university entrance in English. In the Lower School, the department has its own syllabus, which aims to introduce pupils to a wide range of both classic and modern works, to teach them how to speak and write fluently, accurately and engagingly, and to instil a lasting enthusiasm for literature.



## Current Vacancy

We are seeking to appoint an academically rigorous, dynamic, creative and flexible Teacher of English/Second in English to assist with the management of the Department. They would report to, and deputise for, the Head of English. Outstanding subject knowledge, energy, initiative and the ability to sensitively manage diverse colleagues and inspire pupils are essential traits. The successful applicant should be able to teach across the age range up to Sixth Form, with A Level or IB teaching available for the right candidate.

## Contact

Please contact Mr Ben Prestney on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail [bnp@whitgift.co.uk](mailto:bnp@whitgift.co.uk) if you have any questions or would like to know more.

## Boarding

Our superbly equipped boarding facilities are ideally placed within the spacious grounds of Hailing Park. A large proportion of boarders come from various parts of the United Kingdom, and some from 20 other countries across the world. As a Boarding School, stimulating opportunities may be available for the right candidate to contribute to the pastoral care of students as a Boarding Tutor, both residential and non-residential along with a wide range of co-curricular activities which include outstanding sport and music programmes. Shortlisted applicants will be able to express their interest at interview.

## Teaching and Learning through Digital Strategy

We believe that technology is becoming ever more widely used in society. As part of a wide-reaching Digital Strategy, we have identified several areas where we think technology can be of benefit to Learning and Teaching at Whitgift School. The aim is to allow users to access a broader range of resources and information that can be significantly more efficient than research through traditional methods.

With this in mind, we have begun a rollout of laptop devices initially to all of our first form students. The laptops may be used to access eBooks or more up-to-date resources as well as enabling collaborative work with different pupils contributing to one finished piece.

As part of our Junior Years Curriculum (from Lower First to Second Form), we aim to challenge pupils with serious academic rigour, preparing them for success at GCSE and beyond, while enthusing them with a love of learning, intellectual curiosity about the wider world and the skills to be independent thinkers and learners. We have now introduced Global Citizenship as a taught subject. Last term the Lower First were introduced to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and they have been learning about climate change, poverty and food security, and plastics in the ocean. Second Formers also have timetabled lessons on 'Ignite', through which they are being taught about Global Citizenship and independent project skills.

### **Community Engagement**

The John Whitgift Foundation has a strong ethos of giving back to the local community. As part of this, we are proud to promote these values and this filters through all aspects of the School.

Whitgift pupils and staff are already active in in this area, particularly through our links with primary schools, and we are committed to increasing this involvement in the coming years. There will be exciting opportunities for staff to be involved in activities which both enhance the development of Whitgift pupils and support the needs of others in the local area. Opportunities will become available in the Whitgift Community Summer School, Primary Academic Masterclasses, Primary Project and/or other activities of this type as the programme develops.

### **Conditions of Service**

The salary will be on the Whitgift Foundation scale (substantially above national scale) according to qualifications and experience. Accommodation may be available. Assistance is offered towards removal expenses etc., up to £1,000 in total.

Staff are required to make a significant contribution to the co-curricular life of the School and this is reflected in the salary offered. A strong commitment to the pastoral and house system is also anticipated.

We offer a generous salary and benefits package including membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (including Life Assurance cover), Employee Discount Club, discount on school fees for the Foundation Schools (permanent posts only), staff discount on off-peak membership at our on-site gym (Nuffield Health), membership of a healthcare plan, a range of family-friendly benefits and season ticket loan.

We welcome applications from all parts of our community as we aspire to attract staff that matches the social and cultural diversity of our student intake.

For further information and an online application form, please visit [www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies](http://www.whitgift.co.uk/vacancies). For any general queries, please telephone the School Human Resources Department on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail [SchoolHR@whitgift.co.uk](mailto:SchoolHR@whitgift.co.uk).

Applications will be reviewed daily and interviews may occur at any stage after applications are received so we invite interested candidates to apply as soon as possible.

As a result of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, employers now have to verify that new recruits who are not British Nationals are eligible to work in this country. Therefore, any applicant who is offered an interview will be asked to provide official documentation to verify their ID, address and right to work in the UK. It is also normal practice for the School to ask for original qualifications and professional membership documents as detailed on their application.

***Whitgift School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service.***

November 2021