

TEACHER OF CHEMISTRY

Fixed-Term Contract up to 12 months from January 2022

Whitgift is one of Britain's leading independent day and boarding schools for boys aged between 10 and 18 years with approximately 1500 pupils and over one 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 Vacancy

The Department is very busy and expectations within the School are high. The successful candidate must be someone who is 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.

We are seeking to appoint an experienced, enthusiastic and dedicated teacher who possesses a genuine passion for Chemistry alongside a capacity to share this effectively with pupils of all ages. A commitment to maintaining the high standards of the department would be expected, and there is excellent scope for an inspirational teacher to develop and apply their skills and knowledge at all levels. Involvement in the wider activities of the department would be expected.



The position is most suited to someone who has experience of teaching Chemistry at A Level and GCSE, given that they will be taking over existing sets, including examination sets, mid-way through the year. The ability to work as a team is essential and candidates will also need to have good IT skills. The successful candidate will possess strong classroom management skills and an ability to inspire boys of all ages. In making this appointment, we are looking for the right calibre of person whose teaching will be notable for its energy and high standards. Our aim is to encourage and develop good Chemists who will inspire pupils to study the subject at A Level and the International Baccalaureate. This is an excellent opportunity to develop teaching experience at all levels.

Candidates should have a strong academic background and be willing to contribute to the further development of this department, which enjoys considerable popularity amongst the pupils. The post represents an excellent opportunity to teach motivated boys in a well-resourced department.

A proactive culture of supporting and developing talented and inspiring teachers is supported by the Senior Management Team. Training and development includes:

- regular in-house training for all teaching staff
- NQT induction programme for unqualified teachers
- School's Direct programme to support those new to the profession.

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 resident and non-resident along with a wide range of co-curricular activities.

The position reports to the Head of Chemistry.

The Science Department

Science facilities at Whitgift include 16 large teaching laboratories, 1 small teaching laboratory, 2 main preparation rooms, a lecture theatre and an animal room. The laboratories are undergoing a rolling programme of redevelopment, with all of the labs being refurbished by September 2022. The Science faculty, led by Mr Paul Elliott, has thirty-two teaching staff and consists of the Biology, Chemistry and Physics Departments as well as a Junior Science Section. The science support staff is made up of nine full-time colleagues who give technical and administrative assistance to teachers.

Our younger pupils (Years 6 to 7) currently follow a combined science course of our own design; it contains much original material intended to excite and interest junior boys, who already have a natural enthusiasm for science. Year 8 is taught as Separate Sciences, by specialist science teachers to provide a good platform for IGCSE.

The Chemistry Department

The person appointed will be joining a large Chemistry Department, currently staffed by eleven subject specialists as well as being supported by two technicians and a Department Administrator. Most teaching is carried out within the Science Department, which has sixteen fully resourced science laboratories including five dedicated Chemistry laboratories, one specialist Sixth Form laboratory and a Lecture Theatre. Both the School and the Department have a firm commitment to helping teachers to enhance their abilities through experience and appropriate in-service training.



A major financial investment for improved and increased teaching and learning space has been approved. There is currently a rolling programme of refurbishment of all 16 laboratories providing wet and dry areas, 13 of which have been completed. In addition, phases one and two of the School Masterplan improvements include new, purpose-built science laboratories to complement the existing facilities. This is therefore an exciting time to be joining the Science Department.

Within the Chemistry Department itself, from the Third Form to the Fifth Form (Years 9 to 11), staff currently work to prepare boys for IGCSE Chemistry. A number of boys will switch to Double Award at the beginning of the Fifth Form, though all students begin the Third Form with the possibility that they will go on to complete the full, separate science Chemistry IGCSE. Boys can then choose either to study AQA A Level Chemistry or to study Chemistry at either higher or standard level as part of the International Baccalaureate.

The Department has developed a great deal of resource material to support the teaching of students at GCSE, Sixth Form and university entrance level, and the successful candidate would be expected to manage these resources for their own classes and develop departmental resources further with the continuing help of the team. The candidate appointed would be expected to help ensure that Schemes of Work are up to date and innovative, and that the Chemistry Department meets the various deadlines required for the internal routine of the School, for reporting to parents and for public examinations.

Curriculum



Chemistry is a compulsory subject at GCSE, but it remains a popular subject choice in the Sixth Form, with 12 sets studying A Level or IB Chemistry in Years 12 and 13. In the current academic year, there are 44 pupils in the Lower Sixth and 50 in the Upper Sixth studying A Level Chemistry. Within the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, there are 35 students studying Chemistry in the Sixth Form.

Academic Results

Academically, the Chemistry Department has been very successful. At International Baccalaureate Higher Level, 100% of pupils have achieved level 7-6. In A Level Chemistry the A* - B rate was 89% and Pupils achieved 100% grade 7-9 rate in the GCSE/IGCSE course.

	Grades	2021 (TAG's)	2020 (CAG's)	2019 Exams
GCSE/IGCSE	7-9	100%	100%	90%
A Level	A* - B	89%	68%	100%
IB (Higher Level)	7 – 6	100%	83%	86%

In line with our results, the Department is currently enjoying a period of development. It is hoped that the right candidate will continue with the implementation of, and see through to their natural conclusions, initiatives and processes put in place to broaden the Department's appeal among pupils and continue to enhance its academic achievements.

It is also an opportunity for the successful candidate to aspire to expand the departmental horizons. The right person for the post will be interested in fulfilling an important role in the Department that extends beyond the classroom and will therefore not be shy of giving appropriate energy and thought to important departmental development issues and strategies.

Co-Curricular Activities

We aim to enhance our pupils' studies of Chemistry, by regularly entering students for the British Chemistry Olympiad, Cambridge Chemistry Challenge.

We also organise trips to various Sixth Form lectures, take a group of students to the Salters Festival of Chemistry, and take part in the RSC Top of the Bench competition. We run a Chemistry Society, and Oxbridge extension sessions for the Sixth Form and we are looking to expand our co-curricular provision in the future, including planning additional trips. Each year, a significant number of boys move on from Whitgift to study Chemistry-related subjects at top universities including Oxbridge.

Contact

Please feel free to contact Miss Sian Herring, Head of Chemistry, on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail seh@whitgift.co.uk if you have questions regarding the vacancy or would like to know more.

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, and assistance is offered towards removal expenses etc.

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), 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 any general queries, please telephone the School Human Resources Department on 020 8688 9222 or e-mail 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.

September 2021