



# THE KING'S SCHOOL

OTTERY ST MARY • DEVON EX11 1RA • TEL: 01404 812982 • FAX: 01404 815685

Founded 1545 • Headteacher: Mr Rob Gammon BSc Hons PGCE NPQH



January/February 2023

Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing an interest in the position of 2nd in Science at The King's School.

The King's School was founded by Henry VIII in 1545 and therefore the school has a long and proud tradition of educating young people in Ottery St Mary and the surrounding area. The school has a strong reputation that is based on high academic performance and an inclusive ethos, ensuring that students of all backgrounds and abilities succeed. The school is an outstanding 11-18 comprehensive school (OfSTED 2011, 2014) with approximately 1120 students on roll and has been oversubscribed for many years. We have a thriving Sixth Form which continues to perform very well. We have a broad curriculum offer pre- and post-16: this allows students to select subjects they are passionate about, and offers a wide range of opportunities for students and staff. We have a rolling programme of investment in the school site with over £2 million of capital projects completed over the last 5 years. As a result, we have a well-resourced and pleasant environment for the whole school community to enjoy.

The experiences of our students reflect our 'Achievement for All' ethos. Students are taught in mixed ability classes in all subject areas (except mathematics) and we believe that this approach supports the development of academic success as well as the strong sense of community and mutual support that is present in the school. We provide extension opportunities for the most able students and continue to see many of them progressing to the best universities and apprenticeships in the UK. We also have an award-winning Skills for Learning team that works alongside classroom teachers, ensuring that those students with additional learning needs are well catered for. Students of all abilities at the school make sustained learning gains during their time with us.

Academic outcomes only give a narrow view of the success of a school. Therefore, The King's School places a strong emphasis on personal, as well as academic, outcomes. We provide outstanding pastoral care and a wide range of enrichment opportunities are available to all students. The house system is an integral part of school life and is reflected in our smart uniform. Students and staff are very proud of their house associations and this provides a platform for a wide range of house competitions and leadership opportunities which is also reflected in the opportunities we provide for students within science. The legacy of our sports college designation means that we also have a very strong physical education and school sport offer that caters for students from across the ability range. We run the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and have a highly successful Ten Tors programme, which is facilitated by a team of committed staff and volunteers. We continue to maintain additional opportunities including school productions, STEM activities, dance performances and an Arts and Technology Evening to name but a few. Student voice is also strong at the school and the School Parliament and Prefects play a very active part in school life.

The school converted to an academy in April 2011 but we still maintain very strong relationships with our local primary and secondary schools. We continue to work alongside local teaching school hubs, multi-academy trusts and teacher training organisations. As a result, there are a number of staff who are actively engaged in supporting other schools, training teachers, and undertaking nationally accredited CPD such as those offered on the NPQ programmes.

The Science Department has 12 teaching staff, with most based in their own laboratories; they have support from an excellent team of technicians. There is a science leadership team consisting of a Head of Science and two 2<sup>nd</sup> in Science posts. The responsibilities of the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Science posts depends on the needs of the department and the knowledge and expertise of the post holders.

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The modern science laboratories are well stocked with equipment and are arranged to allow flexible teaching spaces and encourage a rich experience of practical science. Teaching in science is lively, innovative, creative and rigorous but – above all – fun. All classes are taught in mixed-ability groups. The extra-curricular provision is also very strong with a thriving and successful Science Club as well as a host of Gifted and Talented activities and curriculum-based trips and visits.

Science is a popular option at Key Stage 4 and 5. Approximately half of all students opt for Separate Sciences at Key Stage 4 and more than half of Year 12 study at least one science. Our A Level Year 12 options usually have two groups running in Biology and Psychology and at least one group each in Chemistry and Physics. The department enjoys teaching science in an active and practical manner. At Key Stage 3, the school follows its own scheme of work, created using staff interests and expertise to meet the students' needs. Students then have a free choice to study Combined Science or Separate Sciences at GCSE. Students are not only very successful at science but they also enjoy science. This is reflected in the outcomes in the summer 2022 examinations with progress in all three sciences, and combined science, in the top third of schools nationally. Achievement at A-level is consistently high, with a number of students achieving the very top grades and studying science at world-leading universities.

We are looking to appoint a 2<sup>nd</sup> in Science with a specialism in Biology. A Level teaching would be available for a suitably qualified candidate. We are also seeking a candidate who has a willingness to teach A Level Psychology. It is important to us to have an enthusiastic and engaging 2<sup>nd</sup> in Science who will join and enrich our strong science leadership team.

We have lively and enthusiastic staff, a number of whom have worked at The King's School for many years. We believe firmly that the most important asset of the school is its staff and we are keen to offer them opportunities to develop. The King's School is in a very fortunate position in that it is located in a beautiful part of the country. It has an excellent reputation in the area and consequently is always heavily oversubscribed for student places. We are very proud of our strong examination results and outstanding OfSTED judgment but are equally proud of the caring, supportive and friendly ethos that exists here whether you are student or member of staff.

We hope you find this information helpful but if you would like further information or you wish to visit the school in advance of an application please contact Mrs. Pocock ([recruitment@thekings.devon.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@thekings.devon.sch.uk)). When applying for the role, it is important that you refer to the school's **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy** and the **DBS Disclosure Policy**, which can be found on our website (About Us – Policy Documents).

Finally, thank you once again for showing an interest in this post. The King's School is a very special place to study and work. As a parent of three children educated at the school, and someone who lives in the community, I can talk from personal experience of the impact that this school has on the lives of young people. We have very hardworking and supportive staff who enjoy being part of this community and I hope that you will take the time to consider if this school is the right place for you. I wish you well in your application.

Yours sincerely

Mr R J Gammon  
Headteacher