



THE LATYMER SCHOOL

Founded 1624

TEACHING AT THE LATYMER SCHOOL

The large number of applicants for student places at Latymer and the special ethos make it an exciting place to teach.

We have about 12 student teachers on each placement, they learn their craft, and some are only too happy to apply for a teaching post if one becomes available.

There are usually about 4 newly qualified teachers in any one year – they are able to develop their teaching skills in an environment where students are cooperative and willing to work with innovative teachers.

Other staff stay for their whole career, continuing to develop as subject teachers and some choosing to go down the route of wider responsibilities than as a class teacher.

Many staff on their first visit are surprised at how “normal” a school it is. There are Houses, there is a school song, we are conscious of long tradition but also use modern, active, teaching methods and the school is well resourced. We are not complacent, there are cross-department staff working parties who develop ideas and share them with all staff at the half-termly staff meetings.

We are serious about providing opportunities for teachers to develop; this is valuable for the individual and valuable for students since they receive an enhanced service when teachers teach even better. There is a generous INSET budget, so it is unusual for a request for external training to be declined but most staff feel able to develop by taking advantage of all the in-school opportunities:

1. Staff Working Parties
2. Staff meetings where colleagues present on an area of interest or innovation
3. There are 3 temporary TLR positions which are advertised on an annual basis. These are all at the level of TLR3 with titles such as “Coordinator of Sixth Form Academic Enrichment”
4. There are 7 Head of Learning posts and 7 Assistant Head of Learning posts. It is unusual for there to be none advertised internally during any year.
5. There are numerous trips during the year, providing an opportunity for staff to interact with students outside the classroom and, in time, to take a leadership role if they wish. Each Year 7 Form Group participate in a residential trip to Cwm, our field centre in North Wales during the summer and a Year 9 residential trip also takes place. There are many subject day trips and many trips during holidays, including to Barbados, Iceland and two ski trips a year.
6. There is a significant contribution from non-PE specialists to the provision of extra-curricular sport giving students the opportunity to take part in competitive sport at many levels, from basketball to cross-country running.

To go with this general statement giving some idea of what it is like to teacher at Latymer are some case studies of individual teachers at Latymer:



HENRIETTE FRITZSCH: GERMAN TEACHER

Training: German State Exam in Secondary Education; GTP

Previous School(s): German grammar schools; large rural mixed comprehensive school

Opportunities at Latymer: When I first started at Latymer as an NQT more than a decade ago I really loved working as a form tutor. I was encouraged to apply for an Assistant Head of Learning post and have worked in this role for many years now. I continue to hugely value the training opportunities on offer; I attend regular CPD courses and also had the chance to start learning French through one-on-one lessons with our Language Assistant. From the moment I joined the department I was involved in running the Year 10 German exchange, a great way to encourage language learning. At 6th Form level I offer extracurricular literature extension classes and have taken on responsibility for our library resources. I have also acted as Head of Department and been a PGCE mentor a few times, a demanding but rewarding chance to reflect on my own classroom practice again.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: I love the strong pastoral focus we have here; there is a real sense of trust and care. Working with our dedicated support staff is a joy- this includes the languages assistants, learning support staff, librarians, office staff and also the cleaning and caretaking team, who are absolutely brilliant. The sense of community, our bright and curious pupils, and the colleagues committed to team working and sharing of ideas and resources make teaching here so pleasurable.



KRISTINA GREALLY: MUSIC TEACHER

Training: PGCE

Previous School(s): Watford Grammar School for Girls

Opportunities at Latymer: As an NQT last year I was supported and challenged by my department and am particularly pleased this year to have my own GCSE class and to have taken over all the A Level harmony teaching. I have really enjoyed leading existing extra-curricular music ensembles such as Sinfonia, Sixth Form Chamber Choir and Junior Singers, and co-leading Chamber Orchestra, Y7/8 Strings and Y10 Chamber Choir. I am really looking forward to being able to take the older music students on an orchestral and choir tour to Europe. It has been also been a pleasure to have my own form group, and I look forward to being able to take the Cwm residential trip with them.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: The vibrant music scene at Latymer and the academic calibre of its students drew me to apply for the job, but I am thrilled every day by the level of commitment to and enthusiasm for music shown by students of all age groups. They are bright, talented and exhilarating to work with, and it is easy to see them as fellow musicians and academics rather than students. I enjoy the freedom to adapt and create teaching resources and entire schemes of work, and love working in a large, busy and friendly department with students who share our passion for the subject.



Alice Hamilton: Head of Geography

Training: PGCE

Previous School(s): A mixed comprehensive school in Bermondsey

Opportunities at Latymer: I have been afforded many opportunities to further my professional development at Latymer. During my time I have been an Assistant Head of Year for the Sixth Form, as well as my current position as Head of Department. Away from the classroom I have led excursions to our outdoor pursuits centre in Wales and residential fieldwork in Dorset, as well as numerous day field trips to Camber Sands and Kings Cross. I have also been lucky enough to be invited on trips to Berlin and Naples, as well as the regular geography trip to Iceland.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: The opportunity to teach some of the brightest students in London was an obvious attraction taking the job. You are constantly being challenged (in a good way) in the classroom by students who are keen to delve beyond the bullet points in the syllabus. Moreover, the support (and compliments) you receive from parents/carers is an added bonus too. The camaraderie with colleagues – staff fitness, parties, school trips, etc. – helps to make working in this highly-selective, high achieving school a real pleasure.



Greg Heald: PE Teacher

Training: GTP

Previous School(s): Oaktree Community Special School, Enfield; Roundwood Park School, Harpenden.

Opportunities at Latymer: I have been very fortunate to work in a dedicated, experienced and professional department which has furthered my knowledge and teaching skills. The facilities, equipment and staff expertise at Latymer have enabled me to teach a wide variety of activities ranging from Golf and Handball to Orienteering and Gaelic Football. Teaching exam classes in PE has been rewarding with enthusiastic Latymer students and this is reflected in the impressive grades they achieve. Whilst at Latymer I have also had the opportunity to attend PE trips to Barbados, Cyprus, Malta and Holland as well as being invited on a Media trip to Los Angeles. There have also been numerous PE related day trips and residential GCSE PE trips to North Wales and the New Forest. I have been allowed to combine my role in the PE Department with being a Head of Year which I have enjoyed.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: The opportunity to teach PE in a school with students who are keen to try new experiences and will persevere to achieve the best they can. Whether it is core PE or being involved in extracurricular sports teams, students get a positive and sometimes life changing experience. The wide variety of activities we can offer to our students also makes PE at Latymer enjoyable and challenging. It is interesting to see how so many academically able students can transfer intelligence on to the Sports Field. I believe this is a major factor in why we perform so well in competitive sports fixture against other schools. Being able to combine my PE

responsibilities with a pastoral role has also been enjoyable for me. Support from colleagues and parents combine to provide a strong foundation for Latymer students education.



TATIANA HEATH: HEAD OF RUSSIAN

GCSE and GCE Examine

Training: OTP

Previous schools: A Lyceum in Russia; a mixed comprehensive school in Shropshire; a Sports Academy in Essex; GCSE and GCE Examiner

Opportunities at Latymer: I am lucky to teach at Latymer as it provides an enjoyable and increasingly rare opportunity to teach Russian in a UK school. I was always aware of the exceptional reputation of the Latymer teaching team and its brilliant pupils and was excited to join the school as the Head of Russian and a teacher of German. The school has also provided me with opportunities to take many generations of Latymer pupils and staff to Moscow and Saint Petersburg through the Russian exchange programme.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: The Latymer pupils express great thirst for learning a language and challenge me every day to go beyond the curriculum and deepen my own knowledge of culture, history and the linguistics of the languages that I teach. I found the job to be deeply satisfying; I feel extremely proud to see so many of our wonderful Sixth Formers continue learning languages at a degree level. It is, of course, also a great pleasure to work alongside an amazing team of enthusiastic, hard-working and highly knowledgeable people that inspire our pupils.



HOLLY JEBB: DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY TEACHER

Training: TeachFirst PGDE

Previous School: A mixed comprehensive school in Kilburn

Opportunities at Latymer: Despite starting at Latymer during a year full of COVID restrictions I have had many opportunities for developing my pedagogical and pastoral practice in the short amount of time I have worked here. Continual professional development is embedded as part of teaching practice at Latymer, all staff are invited to reflect and improve on their practice through whole staff CPD and external training courses. Societies and activities form a crucial part of student and staff life at Latymer and I have been able to run a Feminism society with Year 8 and an electronics club with Year 10 despite COVID restrictions.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: Working at Latymer is a unique opportunity, unlike many other schools that focus on teaching for exam results alone, Latymer focuses on creating well-rounded and inquisitive young people. Teaching at Latymer has given me the opportunity to truly focus on my practice as a teacher; classroom distractions are minimal which allows you to focus on learning and be experimental and adventurous in your teaching. Not only is the inquisitive attitude of students unique, but the strong sense of community among staff means you will always feel supported. Working in a school with such a unique and innovative approach to education makes every day exciting and look forward to many more years teaching here.



DR SYLVIE KOESTLÉ-CATE: HEAD OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS STUDIES

Training: Maîtrise, PGCE, MA, PhD

Previous Schools: City and Islington Sixth Form Centre, Colombo International School and Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School. I have also taught at the University of East Anglia (UEA), the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

Opportunities at Latymer: The school has been very generous in offering plenty of training to ensure I am ready to deliver the new A Level course in Economics. In addition to this, I have been given the opportunity to attend a course for Outstanding Teachers and received training in strategies for improving literacy at A Level. During one of my year here, the school's focus on Teaching and Learning enabled me to benefit from the expertise of an ex-Ofsted inspector on how to conduct and feedback on lesson observations. The school prioritizes staff development and has been very supportive in releasing me in order to work for Tutor2u for two days to deliver revision sessions in London for A Level Economics students and in allowing me to continue with my work as an examiner and team leader for Pearson. The CPD offered in-house is of top quality and highly relevant to our teaching.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: This is my seventh year at Latymer and what I particularly enjoy is the caliber and enthusiasm of the students here. I have found them engaged, willing to take risks and proactive in responding to suggestions. They are truly inspiring, which makes lesson preparation and marking both exciting and fulfilling. I really enjoy my relationship with the staff here; training together has helped us develop a sense of camaraderie as well as mutual and self-respect. In my own department colleagues are both supportive and creative, collaborative work makes the job so much more rewarding. I have, at times, taken advantage of the range of staff sporting activities after school available at Latymer, adding to my sense of personal development. Finally, Latymer offers a friendly and supportive working environment, and I really look forward to coming to work in the morning.



STEVE LUNN: MATHS TEACHER

Training: PGCE

Previous Schools: I spent 23 years working in IT for 5 companies as programmer, consultant and manager before jumping off the corporate career gravy train into a PGCE course. I spent my NQT first teaching year at a grammar school and a comprehensive school in east London.

Opportunities at Latymer: I run the Chess club and have delivered lunchtime classes to assist Year 12 students step up from GCSE to AS Maths.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: I enjoy Maths and get great satisfaction teaching enthusiastic students who are willing to learn. I appreciate well thought through, considerate working practices and common-sense bureaucracy, so the supportive and friendly Latymer Maths department is a very fulfilling place to work.



SARAH O'NEILL: BIOLOGY TEACHER

Training: GTP

Previous School(s): An Academy with a mixed comprehensive intake.

Opportunities at Latymer: I have had plenty of opportunities in my years of working at Latymer. In my first year, I became a BT mentor in which I was sent on numerous courses at King' College London to help me with this role. In the second year I then had the opportunity to be assistant Head of Year 12 to cover maternity leave for one year, which is a great opportunity to aid my career development. Following on from this I then became Head of Personal Development, and then added Careers co-ordinator under my belt. I have also more recently become assistant head to Year 13 again. I

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: I am impressed by us having the social staffroom as well as a working staff room where every teacher has a desk. I also like the working staff room as it means we mix with teachers from different departments (which I did not get the opportunity to do at my last school). I come from Enfield myself and went to the local girls' comprehensive school. When coming for interview I had a pre-conception of the school and its day to day running however on my interview day I realised how relaxed and happy the atmosphere is here and I couldn't wait to start the following September.



STUART PANTON: HEAD OF PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

Training: PGCE

Previous School(s): Teaching English Language in Japan for over 4 years. 4 years at a comprehensive in Ruislip, and 4 years at a comprehensive in Southgate

Opportunities at Latymer: In my first year at Latymer I was able to embark on the Olevi leading teacher programme which was run in-house. This gave me new strategies to use in my own teaching practice and allowed me to think about how best to share them with others and how best to coach others. I have also had the chance to take my form to Cwm in Wales and try surfing and abseiling.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer:

Latymer has a very supportive working environment. The emphasis is on doing what is best for the pupils and helping them to think for themselves and challenge themselves rather than just spoon-feeding them information. Yes, the pupils are very bright and generally very well-behaved, but they are also genuinely curious, and they like to learn beyond the limitations of the specification. While this can be challenging, it is certainly very interesting, and it keeps you on your toes!



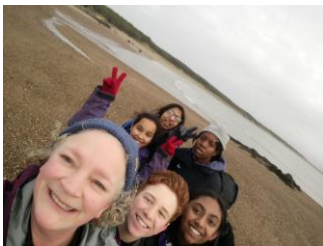
MARY STURLEY: HISTORY TEACHER AND HEAD OF LEARNING

Training: PGCE

Previous School(s): Started Latymer as an NQT

Opportunities at Latymer: During my time at Latymer I have been able to support and participate in a range of extra-curricular activities, from the Bar Mock Trial to organising a Dance club, and going on hugely memorable trips, including Snowdonia and History trips to Normandy, Belgium and Berlin. Within the History department I have been able to support student led societies and organise competitions such as debates. There are great opportunities within the pastoral system at Latymer, enabling my own progression from form tutor to Assistant Head of Year in the Sixth Form, and to my current position as Head of Year (Years 7-11).

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: I am proud to be a part of the Latymer community. The sense of an inclusive and supportive community makes it a wonderful place to work. Students enjoy an array of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities, and it is always a pleasure to watch school productions, concerts and attend art and design exhibitions, all of which are of such a high standard. There is a great emphasis on charitable giving, and student participation and leadership within this area is inspiring. Crucially, the intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm of students makes teaching History particularly enjoyable and rewarding. Staff are very collaborative and supportive, with the sense of community found in staff activities such as fitness and yoga. The friendly and supportive environment makes working at Latymer a pleasure.



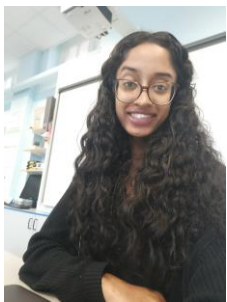
RACHEL TYRRELL: MATHS - KS5 CO-ORDINATOR

Training: PGCE

Previous School(s): Comprehensive secondary schools in Essex, Herts and London

Opportunities at Latymer: I joined Latymer in 2012 as an experienced teacher, wanting to return to more classroom teaching, having had responsibilities outside the classroom in my previous schools. I am able to teach a large amount of A Level in Maths and Further Maths at Latymer, which has not always been possible in other settings due to student numbers, so my subject knowledge has been updated and refined every year since being here. There are multiple opportunities for becoming involved in societies and school trips specifically for me in charity events and music tours but also the ski trip, Wales and many more.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer: Having spent my teaching career since 1994 in challenging schools with a fully comprehensive intake, Latymer is unique in the area in being a mixed grammar school where students' backgrounds are so diverse. I enjoy my lessons with the students every day and the staff in my department and across the school are fantastic colleagues to work with.



TANYA WILLIAMS: HEAD OF CHEMISTRY

Training: PGCE

Previous School(s): Boys comprehensive academy in North London

Opportunities at Latymer:

The Latymer School is a great place for professional development. Since joining The Latymer School, I have been very lucky to have been given many opportunities to further my career as a teacher. During my first year at the school I took on the responsibility of science enrichment coordinator. A year later, I took on an additional role as Assistant Head of Learning for the sixth form and I have now landed the position I always aspired to do, Head of Chemistry.

At Latymer there is also a very good teaching and learning team allowing one to really develop their pedagogy through in- house teacher training as well as being given opportunities to attend external courses.

In addition, there are many trips that take place during the year which are great to go on. It's a great time to bond with both students and staff. I have led a trip to CERN- Geneva, as well as going on a ski trip and numerous trips to Wales.

The Latymer school also has many activities that care for staff wellbeing, including weekly circuits training and a gym that can also be utilised.

Why I enjoy working at Latymer:

Having initially trained at the Latymer school during my PGCE, when a job opportunity came up, I knew I had to apply. The students are all so wonderful to teach. They are inquisitive and so diverse. Being able to teach at the Latymer school also gives you the opportunity to continuously extend your subject knowledge, which has been a very good challenge! Staff are very supportive and friendly and the school has a great working staffroom where all subjects departments are mixed together allowing relationships to be made across all departments. It is lovely working with teachers who are all so enthusiastic about teaching. I have really enjoyed my time teaching at the Latymer school thus far and look forward to hopefully many more years to come!