



QUEEN MARY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Academic in purpose - Generous in approach - Enterprising in spirit - International in outlook



Information Pack

Head of Department – French and Spanish

Required from September 2023

Queen Mary's Grammar School
Sutton Road,
Walsall,
WS1 2PG

01922 720696



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Welcome



Queen Mary's Grammar School was founded in 1554 by Mary Tudor. We have been shaped by our past and are proud of our traditions, but we are also confident of an exciting future as we help to shape the new educational landscape with our partners in the Mercian Trust.

Queen Mary's is an academically selective school. It is our aim to support pupils to achieve their full academic potential. We value the life of the mind and want to pass on a love of learning.

Outside the classroom, we offer a range of life-enriching opportunities: time at our Field Centre in Wales; membership of our thriving Combined Cadet Force; individual and team sports; foreign exchanges and travel; participation in music, debating and public speaking and many other activities. We believe that achievement and enjoyment go hand in hand.

We equip our pupils to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Most choose to go on to higher education. Through partnership between School, pupil and parents, we aim for the examination success that will open doors to the very best universities and international employers. It is our mission to attain excellence in all that we do.

Our House system celebrates the four pillars of school life at Queen Mary's: an academic focus, an international ethos, an enterprising spirit and a sense of community. We enjoy our social, cultural and ethnic diversity and recognise our many privileges. We are keen to share what we have - experience, expertise, enthusiasm - both with those who live on our doorstep and those from further afield.

To do so is very much in the spirit of our motto *quas dederis solas semper habebis opes*: it is what you give that you will keep as eternal riches.

Richard Langton

Headmaster

About Us

Queen Mary's Grammar School is an invigorating and rewarding place to work: the pupils are intelligent and committed to study; the staff are friendly and forward looking. It is more than just a place of work – it is a thriving community, proud of its past and confident of its future. In November 2008, it was recognised as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

There are currently almost 1400 pupils on roll, including over 450 in the Sixth Form. The School has an outstanding academic record and regularly features at the upper end of the national league tables. In 2022, 78% of GCSE grades were 7-9 (A*/A) and 72% of A Level grades were A*, A or B. We are especially proud of our value-added scores, which regularly place us among the top schools in the country for progress. We do not rest on our laurels, but encourage all our pupils to realise their full potential.

In June 2011, the School converted to Academy status and we have undertaken a series of exciting building projects since then, including a new Sixth Form Centre, science labs and a humanities wing, music and PE refurbishments, extensions to existing English and maths classrooms, as well as a new dining room and reception. We were a founding member of the Mercian Multi Academy Trust (along with five other schools) in January 2018. Over the past year, we completed projects to add additional capacity through the building of extra science rooms and improving Design Technology and Art facilities.

The School encourages an enterprising and international outlook: trips, expeditions and exchanges have gone all over the world in recent years, as well as a wide range of vibrant and formative educational visits and experiences closer to home such as theatre visits, visiting speakers and the mental health ambassadors programme. We are proud to appear in Ross Morrison McGill's recent book *Just Great Teaching*, showcasing our mental health work.

We want our pupils to lead happy and fulfilled lives. Learning here is not just about passing exams, but about enjoying the life of the mind. We also encourage all our pupils to take part in a wide range of enrichment activities in music, sport, the Combined Cadet Force and at our Field Centre on the Afon Mawddach in Southern Snowdonia. We have been named in the Top 100 cricket schools by the *Cricketer Magazine* for the third year in succession.

Our pupils come from diverse backgrounds, but they all thrive on the sense of support, encouragement and care that characterises Queen Mary's.

Benefits of working at Queen Mary's Grammar School

- teach gifted and intelligent students who have a real motivation to succeed
- a thriving and expanding school that achieves examination success, particularly at GCSE level
- professional autonomy in the classroom – you are encouraged to teach in a style that suits you and your subject
- a Headmaster and Senior Leadership Team that operate an open-door policy to support colleagues personally as well as professionally
- we take our mental health seriously, considering workload and staff wellbeing
- a dedicated induction programme for new staff and ECTs to ensure you are supported at whatever stage of your career you join us
- opportunities to play a role in the wider life of the school, including involvement in the CCF, music, debating, drama, coaching of sports teams and other trips and opportunities, such as visits to Farchynys (our Welsh field centre)
- career progression – many of our current middle and senior leaders are “home-grown” promotions from within.

Find out more

You can find out more about our school at <http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk>.

For a flavour of daily life at QM follow us on Twitter at @QMGS1554.

Please contact Simran Sahota (HR Executive) if you would like to discuss the role further, or visit the school, via email;

s.sahota@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk

THE MFL DEPARTMENT

The French and Spanish department offers scope and variety from Year 7 through to Year 13 – very much in keeping with the School’s vision of the curriculum. It should be noted that the School also has a Mandarin department with its own Head of Department, while there is much overlap and collaboration across the whole of MFL, this French and Spanish role is entirely distinct from that of Mandarin. There are currently two members of staff teaching French and two teaching French and Spanish. Two of the four are native speakers. Each of the four teachers has their own classroom with interactive whiteboard. In addition, the department benefits from the work of a Foreign Language Assistant for each language, who work with pupils from Year 11 upwards.

The department is experienced in catering for the needs of a wide variety of learners at all levels. Our aim is to support the pupils in becoming confident, independent learners, able to manipulate and create language for themselves. We are aware of the need to constantly rethink our strategies to achieve best outcomes for our pupils and ourselves. All ideas are welcomed as we share best practice. We are flexible and support one another.

KS3

All students learn a European language, as well as Mandarin in Year 7. Pupils are invited to choose which one to continue in Year 8 through to GCSE. We are due to have 3 classes beginning French and 3 beginning Spanish in Year 7 in September 2023, and expect no prior knowledge as pupils come from very many different feeder schools across the West Midlands. We use the text book Tricolore 1 or Listos 1 to provide strong foundations for work in the later years. In Year 8 we use materials drawn from Tricolore 2 and 3 in French, and Listos 2 in Spanish. We switch to Foundation AQA for GCSE with Year 9, to better equip pupils for the GCSE course in Years 10 and 11. Pupils have their own copy of the books, as well as access to the online resources, Kerboodle. We consider grammar and vocabulary learning important, as well as enjoying coverage of the cultural aspects of language learning. We aim to expose the pupils to as much target language use as possible.

KS4

We follow the Higher Level AQA for GCSE to prepare students for the examinations at the end of Year 11. To equip students with what they need to be successful, we share key phrase materials with pupils, and use many assessment techniques. In principle, all pupils are entered for Higher Tier in the four skills.

A Level

Since the formation of the Mercian Trust A Level French and Spanish teaching has been shared with our sister school in the MAT, Queen Mary’s High School for Girls. In addition to the 11 lessons on timetable, all students have a weekly lesson with a FLA. We follow the AQA specification and use the text books AQA French or Spanish Year 1 + 2 as the basis of our work. We study a book and a film for Paper 2 and have a visiting examiner for Paper 3. Students are constantly encouraged to view the foreign press. Group size is typically between 4 and 10 students. Many of our A Level linguists go on to study languages at university.

The department offers a trip for all Year 8 students in the summer term to the country of the language they are studying. A KS4 trip abroad, Language clubs, film clubs, intervention sessions, theatre trips and careers events are some examples of other activities held in recent times.

Job Description and Person Specification

Job Title:	Head of Department – French and Spanish
Grade / Salary:	MPR/UPR. TLR 2C
Hours:	Full time permanent position

The successful candidate will:

- Consistently plan and deliver outstanding lessons to all Key Stages and support colleagues to do the same. We expect the successful candidate to be able to deliver Spanish up to A Level.
- The ability to teach French as well as Spanish would be an advantage, but is not essential.
- Be fully aware of ongoing developments in the Spanish and French curriculums and ensure that pupils' learning is effective and challenging
- Manage the creation, consistent implementation and ongoing improvement of medium term plans and curricula
- Set, feedback to, and analyse internal assessments as required and have an oversight of results across the department, responding to the needs of individuals and groups where appropriate
- Instil discipline within the subject area, ensuring that behaviour is outstanding and that students are conforming to the school rules and expectations
- Be a key contributor in relation to the 'Queen Mary's experience' – offering extra curricular opportunities through trips and groups/societies.
- Be responsible for the management of the departmental budget
- Communicate effectively within both the department and wider school community – fostering links with other subject areas, external agencies and through participation in the school's curriculum group (made up of Heads of Department).

Person Specification:

- You will be an experienced and skilled classroom teacher with a proven track record of academic success and curriculum impact
- You will be passionate about the academic rigour of the subject and all that Spanish and French entails
- You will be committed to diversity and representation in teaching and learning
- You will be a well-qualified graduate with QTS and possess excellent subject knowledge in Spanish and/or French. In particular, you will be capable of delivering Spanish up to A Level.
- You will be an innovative and effective teacher, keen to develop the role of the Department across the school
- You will have a commitment to the ethos of the school and a willingness to contribute to extra-curricular activities
- You will be positive and enthusiastic in your approach to teaching, departmental management and working in the school
- You will have good oral and written communication skills
- You will have the ability to work as part of a team and to develop and maintain positive relationships with teaching and associate staff, as well as students
- You will be willing to be involved in the pastoral life of the school as a tutor

You will be suitable to work with children. This job is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure.

Closing date: Monday 17 April 2023– 9:00am

Interviews: W/C Monday 17 April

Please return completed application forms to s.sahota@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk

Queen Mary's Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and all applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service. Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment Policies can be found on our website.

The Mercian Trust

Queen Mary's Grammar School is a Founder Academy of the Mercian Multi-Academy Trust. According to the National Schools Commissioner, Sir David Carter, MATs exist:

- to secure school improvement and develop people
- to encourage good governance and proper risk management
- to secure the financial health of all its academies.

We sign up to those ambitions. In our MAT, the Mercian Trust, we choose to pursue life to the full in the business of education.

We are convinced that we are stronger together. The Mercian Trust is already helping to shape the educational landscape in exciting ways. We welcome you to be part of that story.

The members of The Mercian Trust are: Aldridge School, The Ladder School, Queen Mary's Grammar School, Queen Mary's High School, Shire Oak Academy, Walsall Studio School, Q3 Langley, Q3 Great Barr, Q3 Tipton

Our schools prepare pupils to live life to the full by equipping them to realise their full potential as learners; to thrive in the world of work; and to make a positive contribution to the local, national and international community.

You may have heard about some MATs that seem to have turned into big businesses. That is not our view of what education should be about. That is why Queen Mary's Grammar School wanted to be right at the heart of decision making of what our MAT should look like.

The Mercian Trust respects the autonomy of its member schools but, through collaboration, it will foster strengths greater than the sum of its parts. Put simply, the Trust provides a framework for sharing expertise, enthusiasm and experience.

Location

Queen Mary's Grammar School
Sutton Road
Walsall
West Midlands
WS1 2PG

Tel: 01922 720696
Fax: 01922 725932

Queen Mary's Grammar School is located on the Sutton Road, in the leafy south of the town and close to the centre of Walsall. Travel to the school is very convenient, being approximately 10 minutes' drive from both junctions 7 and 9 of the M6.

There are good bus links from Birmingham to Walsall (with the 51 and X51 buses) and there is a direct train route to Birmingham from nearby stations in the town centre, Bescot Stadium and Tamebridge Parkway.

The close proximity of Walsall, Wolverhampton and Birmingham City Centre provides excellent access to shopping, leisure facilities, museums, cinemas and a wide range of nightlife.

House prices in Walsall are also very competitive compared to the Midlands as a whole and there is a range of good local primary schools and nurseries for those with young families seeking to move close to Queen Mary's.

You are very welcome to visit the school. Please contact Simran Sahota, s.sahota@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk (Human Resources) to arrange a visit. Such visits are strongly encouraged.