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Ofsted



INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS FOR TEACHING POSTS 2020/21



Lancaster Royal Grammar School

State Day and Boarding School for Boys 11 to 18
Coeducational Sixth Form

INTRODUCTION

Lancaster Royal Grammar School is one of the oldest state schools in the country. It was founded in the thirteenth century and endowed by John Gardyner in 1472. Originally situated close to the Priory Church and Lancaster Castle, the school moved to its present site in 1851.

Most pupils join in Year 7 having passed the 11+, and a substantial number also join the Sixth Form after taking GCSEs elsewhere. Smaller numbers join other year groups as boarders from the UK and overseas. From the outset the Free School of Lancaster educated boarding as well as day pupils, and of our current 1150 pupils about 155 are boarders. For these students, their education remains free, and parents only pay for the boarding element.

It is an exciting time for our growing school. The first cohort of Sixth Form girls joined us this September, and we are looking forward to welcoming Sixth Form girls as boarders from September 2020.

Our students are energetic and ambitious, and it is definitely “cool to succeed” at LRGS! Their academic record is excellent. LRGS consistently features as one of the top state schools in the country in terms of examination success. Over the last five years 75 % of A-level entries have resulted in grades A* or B (with 23% A* in 2019). At GCSE, over the same period 65% of the entries gained A* or A grades or 9-7 (with 40% 9-8 in 2019).

Over 90% of students go on to further education – typically 30-40 students will apply to Oxford and Cambridge colleges each year. An average of 12 students per year gain Oxbridge offers, and most students proceed to Russell Group universities. Others go on to a range of competitive opportunities which have in recent years included RADA, the Dyson Institute, Glasgow School of Art, high-quality apprenticeships and US sports scholarships amongst many others.

We are also a caring school which offers strong and effective pastoral support to individuals. We are forward-looking and leaders in the area of student support and well-being.

A profusion of extra-curricular activities provides an exceptional range of social, cultural and sporting opportunities, including a full programme of Saturday games fixtures.

We have made substantial investment into our estate and teaching facilities in recent years, thanks to a number of grants and donations. In recent years, we completed work on a £2.5 million Priority Schools Building project which has provided two new science laboratories and has transformed Victorian boarding accommodation in Old School House into new classrooms and Sixth Form study and social space.

The school aims to provide a well-balanced and rigorous academic education for all its pupils, and it is fortunate to employ able and dedicated staff. New colleagues will be well qualified in their main subject and also keen to pass on their wider knowledge and enthusiasms to their pupils. A broad level of involvement is encouraged.

One of our core aims is to be a school that develops exceptional teaching. New members of staff are assured of help and support from colleagues in this welcoming school. Staff induction and ongoing professional development are fully supported, and we look forward to supporting further progression in our teachers’ careers.

Dr Christopher Pyle
Head

January 2020

THE SCHOOL SITE

LRGS enjoys a large site with excellent facilities close to the centre of Lancaster with some distinguished old buildings interspersed with new teaching areas. The Assembly Hall and classrooms for Geography, Classics, Religious Studies, the Chaplaincy and MFL are located on East Road in the New Building. Across the road, Old School House is home to the generously proportioned library, the History department, the Sixth Form Centre and café, and P.E department and Drama rooms. Economics and Business & Management are found in top floor rooms. The Music block, sports hall, gymnasium, swimming pool are all close by.

The remainder of the school lies higher up between Wyresdale Road and Quernmore Road, and enjoys spectacular views across Morecambe Bay to the Lake District beyond. Here there are specialist blocks for Mathematics, English and the three Sciences. There is a Technology centre with three workshops and an integrated ICT suite, the International Building which houses the English department, InspirUS (our primary school masterclass programme) and two Art studios. The modern City View building provides Food Technology lessons, a popular cafeteria and staff common room and office facilities. In addition, this upper site includes the Dining Hall, and most of the boarding accommodation. Our cricket pavilion and four cricket squares nestle just below Lancaster's most prominent landmark, the Ashton Memorial.

The school has extensive sports fields for rugby and athletics just a short walk (or run) away.

THE STAFF AND THE ORGANISATION OF THE SCHOOL

The senior leadership team comprises the Head, Deputy Head (Director of Studies), Deputy Head (Pastoral), Head of Boarding & Co-curricular, Head of Sixth Form, and the Director of Finance and Support Services.

There are in total 51 full-time teaching staff and 24 who teach part-time. Teaching staff are well supported by an equally committed support staff, led by the Director of Finance and Support Staff and team leaders. High levels of support for teachers are provided by General office staff, the Learning Support department, technicians, librarian and the grounds staff. Our catering operation is run by Chartwells. School food is much better than the pupils might tell you!

The school is growing. We expanded to six forms of entry in 2017, and have approximately ten tutor groups in both Sixth Form years. It is anticipated that most teachers will have pastoral responsibilities for one of these forms or groups.

Our 155 boarders are placed in one of three boarding houses: Storey House (for Year 7 & 8), School House and Ashton House. The Boarding Housemaster in each case is a member of the teaching staff who is assisted by House Tutors, Matrons and by other catering, medical and cleaning staff. Resident boarding staff generally receive free accommodation in addition to additional remuneration. Non-resident house tutors receive free meals when on duty and a boarding house allowance. Applicants for teaching posts may wish to consider applying for boarding house duties.

Please note that the school operates a no smoking policy.

THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND TIMETABLE

The school timetable operates using 35 periods per week each of 40 or 45 minutes duration. Lunch is taken from 13.05 to 14.05. Each day is from 08.50 to 15.30 and has seven teaching periods, five of which are before lunch.

The timetable operates on a two-week cycle. The current period allocation in each cycle, for subjects studied up to GCSE, is shown below.

| Subject (Key Stage 4) | Years 10 & 11 |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Maths | 8 & 9 |
| English | 10 & 11 |
| Option 1 ² | 6 |
| Option 2 | 6 |
| Option 3 | 6 |
| Option 4 | 6 |
| Option 5 | 6 |
| Option 6 | 6 |
| Option 7 | 6 |
| PE | 2 |
| Games | 4 |

| Subject (Key Stage 3) | Year 9 | Year 8 | Year 7 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| Maths | 9 | 8 | 9 |
| English | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Physics | 4 | 10 | 11 |
| Chemistry | 4 | | |
| Biology | 4 | | |
| RE/Phil. | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| History | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| Geography | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| Latin | 4 ³ | 4 | 2 ⁴ |
| Technology | | 4 | 4 |
| Modern Foreign Language ⁴ | | | 6 |
| Art ⁵ | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Music | | 3 | 3 |
| Option ⁶ | 10 | | |
| Option ⁷ | | 10 | |
| PE | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Games | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Values | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Computing | 2 | 2 | 2 |

² In Y10 and Y11 pupils choose seven subjects from:- Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Geography, Latin, Greek, Spanish, German, Art, Music, Religious Studies, French, Physical Education, Theatre Studies, Resistant Materials, Food Technology and Computing. They must choose at least two sciences and at least one language.

³ In Year 9 pupils choose whether to continue with either Latin or Technology.

⁴ In Year 7 pupils study French, German and Spanish on a language carousel in addition to the language and learning course which is an introduction to Latin.

⁵ In Year 9 this is an expressive arts course including Art, Music and Drama.

⁶ In Year 9 pupils choose to carry on with their 2 MFL's or swap one for Greek.

⁷ In Year 8 pupils choose two subjects from French, German or Spanish.

In the Lower Sixth time is divided into 4 blocks (13 periods each) and games (4 periods). In the 4 main blocks students choose 3 or 4 A-level subjects from the following:- Art, Biology, Business & Management, Chemistry, Computing, Design & Technology, Economics, English Literature, French, Geography, German, Greek, History, Latin, Maths, Further Maths, Music, Photography, Philosophy, Physical Education, Physics, Spanish and Theatre Studies. A fifth block is devoted to a tutor period and Enrichment Programme which includes an opportunity to work towards the Extended Project Qualification.

On average, staff teach about 58 periods in each two week cycle and spend a further period supervising sixth form private study. The remaining periods are free for planning and assessment.

We actively support staff professional and career development. LRGS is active in teacher training with the University of Cumbria and with local Teaching School Alliances. A number of our teachers have undertaken Masters degrees or National Professional Qualifications in Middle and Senior Leadership. Many others work for examination boards or are involved with the Prince's Teaching Institute, local cluster groups or the NNW Maths Hub for which LRGS is lead school.

PUPIL WELFARE, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & PASTORAL CARE

Form tutors provide the immediate day-to-day pastoral care for pupils. A form period is set aside, each day, from 8.50 am to 9.05 am. The work of form tutor is supported and co-ordinated by the Head of Year 7 and Transition, the Head of Year 8 & 9, the Head of Middle School (Years 10 and 11) and the Head of Sixth Form. Successful applicants will normally be expected to undertake the duties of a form tutor.

Pupils' personal development is aided by the LRGS Values programme, which in the lower school is based on the excellent Penn Resilience course.

Boarders receive additional care and support from our resident and non-resident boarding staff team, led by Housemasters, Matrons and Medical Centre staff.

Wider sources of pastoral support include our student support and counselling provision, most of which is based in our pastoral centre at Wyresdale House. The Learning Support department also provides very significant support to a number of students.

SPORT & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

LRGS offers the opportunity for students to compete at a high standard in a range of sports. Rugby, cricket, rowing, athletics, cross-country running and swimming are the major team and individual sports. Football, hockey, tennis, handball, basketball, badminton, orienteering and golf are amongst the other sports played against other schools.

The success of these sports depends to a large extent on the interest and enthusiasm of staff beyond the PE department. Contributions from new staff to the sporting life of the school are always welcome.

Pupils can also take part in a wide range of other outdoor activities run by dedicated staff. In Year 7, all pupils spend two days in the Lake District on an outdoor activities residential. Year 9 pupils can join the thriving combined cadet force which has Army, Navy and Air Force sections. Other activities include orienteering, canoeing, mountain walking expeditions and rock climbing. A large number of students take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, from Bronze in Year 10 to Gold in the Sixth Form.

For students whose interests are not sporting, the school has active clubs which range from chess to debating to Warhammer! There is a very successful drama group which aims to

produce at least two plays or musicals each year. The standard of music at the school is high. We have an excellent Big Band as well as a wide range of other ensembles, and a joint orchestra with the Girls' Grammar School. The school choir is particularly impressive, the highlight of the year being the annual Carol Service in Lancaster Priory.

The school has strong links with partner schools in Europe and runs a number of ambitious international tours and visits. Recent trips include rugby tours to South Africa and Argentina, cricket tour to Barbados, music tour to Barcelona, and World Challenge to Costa Rica.

FRIENDS OF LRGS AND THE OLD LANCASTRIAN CLUB

The school enjoys the enthusiastic support of the parents' association called 'The Friends of LRGS'. The Friends help the school by organising and helping with social occasions and by fund-raising. It is usual for members of staff to take a turn serving on the Friends' committee. The school has a thriving alumni association (the Old Lancastrian Club) which provides regular contact for our leavers and also financial support for school activities.

THE LANCASTER AREA

We consider the Lancaster area to have unrivalled opportunities. The quality of life is high in this university city. LRGS is a happy school with a very committed staff, and pupils who are a pleasure to teach!

Lancaster is surrounded by areas of outstanding natural beauty. It is only a short drive to the Lune Valley, the Pennines, the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District. The city includes thriving cultural and recreational opportunities, and two universities including Lancaster University which was named University of the Year by the Sunday Times in 2018. Communications to the rest of Britain by road (M6) and rail (2½ hours to Euston direct) are first class. There are many delightful residential areas in Lancaster and the surrounding districts.

APPLICATIONS

Applications for posts at LRGS should consist of a letter and a fully completed Application Form. Candidates may also send a CV if they wish. Details should be provided to allow the school to contact two referees.

Applicants are encouraged to use the letter to explain why the post is potentially attractive and to identify any interests or skills which would particularly enhance the application.

CHILD PROTECTION

LRGS is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to show this commitment. The successful applicant will need to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure via Disclosure and Barring Service.

FURTHER INFORMATION

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/1/SC042778>

<https://www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk/schools/lancaster-royal-grammar-school>