

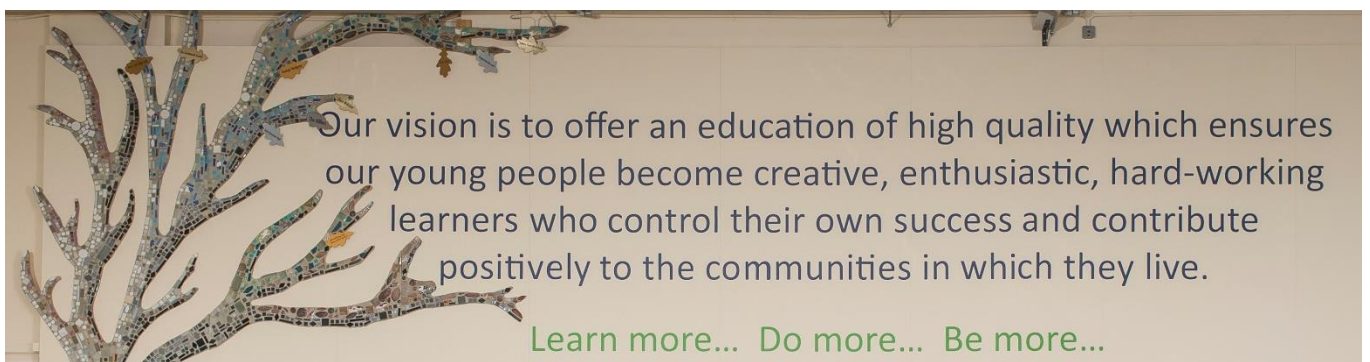


# PRIESTLANDS SCHOOL

Learn more... Do more... Be more...

## Information for Applicants

## History & RE Teacher



Our vision is to offer an education of high quality which ensures our young people become creative, enthusiastic, hard-working learners who control their own success and contribute positively to the communities in which they live.

Learn more... Do more... Be more...



Priestlands is an exciting school in which to work and we are proud of its many achievements. We are committed to being a leading comprehensive school that serves the entire community, provides high quality education across the curriculum and has ambitious plans for its continued success and development. Our headline GCSE results and progress score consistently place us among the top schools in Hampshire and the New Forest and demonstrate that Priestlands is consistently delivering positive outcomes for all groups of students, year on year.

We are proud of our academic record and believe all children are capable of making exceptional progress. We encourage them to embrace challenge, pursue excellence and to be resilient in overcoming obstacles. Above all we want to ignite in our students a love of learning which will serve them well throughout their lives.

However, Priestlands is about far more than exam results as our motto, *Learn more... Do more... Be more...*, implies. Our aim is to develop well rounded young people who have the skills and attributes to be successful in life and make a positive impact in our community.

We are looking for someone with a commitment to education, a capacity for hard work and a passion for continuous improvement. We are also looking for someone who enjoys their work and has a keen sense of humour! If you would like to have an informal chat on the phone about the post, or even visit the school before application, please do contact me.

You can be assured that a warm welcome awaits whoever is appointed. Priestlands is a mutually supportive and friendly staff community, dedicated to the continued professional development of all staff.

I very much hope that having read the enclosed details, you will wish to apply for the post and become part of the Priestlands team. If so, please complete a Priestlands School application form (available on our website) and send it to us as soon as possible. We are happy to receive applications sent via email to [hr@priestlands.hants.sch.uk](mailto:hr@priestlands.hants.sch.uk). The deadline for receipt of applications is 12.00noon on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us. I look forward to hearing from you.

***Peter Main***

Headteacher





# The Vacancy

## History & RE Teacher (MPR/UPR)

Required April 2023

We are seeking to appoint a suitably qualified, dynamic and imaginative teacher of History & RE to join excellent departments that are well-equipped and thriving.

We are recognised for our excellent induction programme and support, therefore early career teachers are welcome to submit an application as well as experienced candidates. Applicants should already hold QTS in the UK.



This post offers an excellent experience for the successful candidate, who is likely to be someone who:

- is an excellent classroom practitioner, with a track record of securing good student progress at both key stages
- is a good communicator
- is able to enthuse others
- has high expectations of students and colleagues, and will raise standards
- has a coherent vision of History and RE, in the curriculum and their special contribution to the whole curriculum
- has an understanding of quality in Learning and Teaching
- is seeking further promotion and career enhancement
- is confident, resilient, resourceful and has a sense of humour.



## The History Department

The History Department is outstanding in all respects. The Head of Department provides outstanding leadership and, collectively, the team deliver consistently impressive lessons as part of an innovative and exciting curriculum that secures exceptional results.

GCSE results and student progress are consistently strong. In 2022, 83% of students gained grades 9-4, with 41% securing grades at 9-7 and 75% securing grades at 9-5. The department has built a strong reputation in the school and History is a popular option subject.

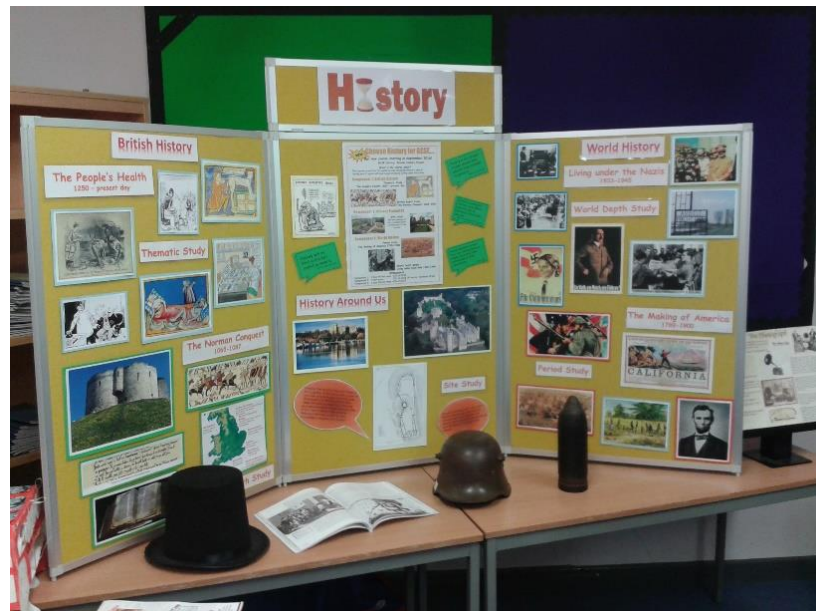
The Department currently offers the GCSE History B (Schools History Project) OCR. In Year 9 students study the rise of the Nazis and life in Nazi Germany. In Year 10 they complete a thematic unit on the People's Health c.1250 to present and a British Depth Study on the Norman Conquest 1065-1087. They also spend a day at Portchester Castle for their History Around Us unit in which they study the features of the castle, why it was built and its changing use over time. In Year 11 they do a Period Study on the Making of America 1789-1900.



The History Department has been at the forefront of many initiatives at Priestlands. They have developed new marking and feedback strategies to enable students to make rapid progress. They have also developed methods for developing high level thinking, writing Grade 9 exam answers and effective exam revision skills.

The History Department at Priestlands offers thought-provoking and engaging lessons for all students. Stimulating key questions help to drive students' enquiries and create a deeper interest in the subject. Lessons aim to provide the key tenets of pace, challenge and rigour. The Department has worked specifically on promoting thinking skills. It has worked particularly on developing innovative ways of teaching interpretations, causation and using sources of evidence.

The History Department at Priestlands is looking for a talented teacher who is excited by the opportunity to be involved in continued development and change within a truly exceptional Department. The successful candidate should be an impressive classroom practitioner who can help maintain existing standards and sustain the drive to become one of the best departments in the country. The Department is supported fully by the Senior Leadership Team and a Line Manager.



## The RE Department

At Priestlands School, Religious Education seeks to promote equality of opportunity for all students and enable them to benefit from a rich and enjoyable learning experience. Currently the department comprises three teachers: the Head of Department, and two further specialist full-time teachers. The school is keen to consolidate and build on the considerable growth and development of RE experienced in recent years.



At all levels Religious Education is taught as an academically rigorous and highly relevant subject. The department has a strong record of academic success and an increasing number of our leavers go on to Religious Studies, Philosophy and Sociology at A Level at our local colleges.

At Priestlands School, Religious Education seeks to promote equality of opportunity for all students and enable them to benefit from a rich and enjoyable learning experience. We are committed to providing a framework for success for all students and to the delivery of a curriculum which will meet individual needs.



Religious Education is part of the school's core curriculum. It is taught as a discrete subject by specialist teachers in specialist teaching areas. The syllabus at KS3 and KS4 is designed to meet the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus for Hampshire. All classes are taught in broad ability groups. We use a selection of varied and appropriate teaching methods and encourage independent and experiential learning. We recognise that teaching and learning styles are interactive; our programmes of study have been carefully selected to meet student needs and fulfil

legal requirements.

At GCSE, students follow the AQA Syllabus A and alongside the four Themes units they study the key beliefs and practices of Buddhism and Christianity. Numbers have rapidly increased in recent years. Currently over 80 students in total are taking the course, with three full sets in Year 11 and three groups in Year 10. The department's GCSE results are excellent and we seek the best for every pupil who takes the course.



The Year 9 has parity of provision on the curriculum with other GCSE options subjects if they opt at the end of Year 9 in which we complete a course on Humanism, Philosophy of Religion and Human Rights. All students follow a foundation course in Ethics – based on the BBC's A-Z of Religion and Ethics.



By its very nature, RE promotes inter-culturalism; students are encouraged to explore diversity of belief and practice and to listen with respect to the beliefs and values of others. A major feature of the school calendar is Holocaust Awareness Day for Year 9 students. The day includes a talk by a Holocaust survivor, something which always leaves students with a lasting and memorable impression. Students also have the opportunity to take part in a five day trip to Germany and Poland which includes a whole-day visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. We are also a UCL Beacon School for Holocaust Education and have worked with other organisations to ensure a more comprehensive study of the Holocaust.

The Religious Studies Department is situated in the modern Nichols teaching block and all classrooms offer integrated ICT, sound and projection facilities. We also benefit from a well-situated departmental office. We have a wide range of resources and text books along with artefacts from the major world beliefs.



This continues to be an exciting time in the development of Religious Studies at Priestlands. We are looking to gain the RE Quality Mark in the next couple of years and the successful candidate will be pivotal in our achievement of this award. The successful candidate will share a creative passion for the subject, coupled with a vision for integrating it even more into the life of the School. There is scope for the subject to contribute more fully to the Moral and Spiritual development of students through the School's PSHE programme.



## The School

Priestlands School, an 11-16 mixed comprehensive school, became an academy in August 2011. Serving the South of the New Forest, our catchment area covers an area of outstanding beauty, stretching from Beaulieu in the East, to Brockenhurst in the North, and Milford-on-Sea at its most westerly point. To the South lies the Solent, a very popular sailing area in the country.

We serve eleven primary and junior schools, although our intake includes children from other schools, including a number of private schools. Our intake pattern is eight forms of entry.



## Our Facilities

Priestlands is situated on a large and pleasant campus, which we share with Pennington Infant and Junior Schools. The School is surrounded by some 25 acres of playing fields.



There are ten Science laboratories, Design and Technology workshops, ICT facilities throughout the school, as well as general classrooms. We also have a Learning Support Centre known as The Hub.

Our buildings include a Grade II listed building, which houses Art and Child Development. We re-commissioned our formerly derelict Grade II listed Coach House building and reclaimed the original Victorian Walled Garden where we keep animals, as well as growing

fruit, vegetables and flowers.

We have access to an excellent indoor swimming pool which is part of the Lymington Health & Leisure Centre, currently run by Freedom Leisure. The school owns a gymnasium, synthetic turf pitch, sports hall and floodlit tennis courts, enabling us to offer a very wide range of sporting activities, and we are proud of our sporting record.



We have a modern contemporary study centre housing our Library, and which KS4 students can use after school to study independently to complete homework, research and revision.

There are ICT clusters in many subject areas, including Art, Careers, Design Technology, Maths, Music, Science, the Study Centre and The Hub. Interactive Whiteboards are installed in all History, Maths and Modern Languages classrooms. Ceiling-mounted data projectors can be found in all other subject areas.



## The Curriculum

At KS3, students follow a common timetable, which includes English, Mathematics, the Sciences, ICT, History, Geography, Religious Education, a Modern Language (French, German and Spanish are offered), Technology, Performing and Visual Arts (Art, Drama and Music), Physical Education, and a tutorial PSHCE period.

We operate a condensed KS3 curriculum, so that all students complete their KS3 assessments at the end of Year 8, not Year 9. This has allowed the development of a more personalised and enhanced KS4.



At KS4, all students currently follow an extended core comprising: English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science, Citizenship (Ethics and Philosophy, careers, enterprise and health), PE and tutorial work. Within Science, most students follow the Combined Science course with some taking Separate Sciences.



With the introduction of the English Baccalaureate, we refined our KS4 curriculum pathways, so that students intending to attend university are strongly encouraged to choose a Modern Language and Humanities subject.

Option subjects currently available include: Art (3D and Fine Art), Applied Business, Child Development, Computer Science, Design Technology, Drama, French, Food & Nutrition, Geography, German, History, Horticulture and Small Animal Care (non-exam course), ICT, Media Studies, Music, Photography, Physical Education (GCSE and OCR Sports Studies), Religious Studies, Spanish, and a non-examination Study Support course.

Students are taught mostly in mixed ability groups in Year 7, and may be 'set' thereafter, although subject areas use the opportunities offered by block timetabling to group children flexibly. Our intention is to develop more individualised styles of teaching and learning, and we offer increasing opportunities for students to develop independence and a sense of ownership of their learning. Special Needs provision is overseen by our Special Needs Co-ordinator. It is our policy that all teachers are teachers of children with special needs. For the most part, children are supported in mainstream lessons, withdrawal being rare.

## Pastoral Organisation

It is our intention that our curricular and pastoral work should be integrated. At present, almost all teachers are tutors, and all students have a tutorial lesson each week. The school is year-based, each year having a team of tutors and a Head of Year. Year groups also have an Assistant Head of Year (a staff development opportunity – unpaid but with a laptop!). Each year group has an assigned Pastoral Support Manager, an experienced member of the support staff who fields most phone calls, investigates incidents and supports and mentors students.

Heads of Years have responsibility for monitoring learning across their Year Groups. Year Teams rotate from Years 7 to 11, to maximise continuity.

In addition, a House System operates to provide opportunities for competition and to cement relationships across year groups.





All students wear the school uniform, which is modern, comfortable, affordable and practical. Our Behaviour Management Policy defines expectations clearly, provides opportunities to reward and recognise students who model Priestlands Values, and provides a structure which can be fairly and consistently applied throughout the school. The Priestlands Values, developed by students and staff and based around the principles of the 3Rs, being Ready, Respectful and Responsible, are displayed throughout the school.



## School Leadership



There is a regular pattern of meetings, which aims to provide ample opportunities for staff to participate in the decision-making process. We enjoy a close working partnership with our Governors, who are well integrated in the School's management structure.

We have approximately 160 members of staff, more or less equally divided between teaching and support, who are characterised generally by their enthusiasm, and commitment to Priestlands and its students. We are committed to the professional development of

all staff, and aim to develop continually as a professional learning community.

## Ofsted

Priestlands has had six successful Ofsted reports. At the last inspection (November 2016), under the new tougher framework, we were judged Good. The report said several things of which we are very proud, especially :

- "Pupils are friendly, polite and respectful of each other. They behave very well, they are knowledgeable about the risks of social media and confident about who to talk to if they have any concerns. They are proud of their school and the difference they make to school life."
- "Parents describe the school as 'amazing, with a real family atmosphere'."
- "Parents and pupils are very positive about the care and support that they receive, especially those who need additional help."
- "Pupils and parents are very enthusiastic about the many opportunities the school provides for learning outside the classroom."
- "Staff are hugely positive about the school and enjoy working there because they are well supported and are part of a highly motivated team."
- "Staff value the way that leaders have created a climate in which they can take risks and innovate."





## Priestlands GCSE Results 2022

At Priestlands we pride ourselves on consistently delivering excellent outcomes at GCSE Level, year on year. We are proud of our academic record and believe all children are capable of making exceptional progress. We encourage them to embrace challenge, pursue excellence and to be resilient in overcoming obstacles. Above all we want to ignite in our students a love of learning which will serve them well throughout their lives.



The government baseline measure of Progress 8 demonstrates that students at Priestlands consistently achieve higher grades than their peers nationally. You can view more at: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/compare-schools>. The overall performance from the Class of 2022, who faced so many challenges over the last three years, was exceptional and included many individual successes. Priestlands' students did extremely well in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science sustaining high performance, whilst there were also record results in many other subjects with a significant number of the top grades 9-7 awarded.

	Achieving 5+ 9-4 (including English & Maths)	Achieving 9-7 in English & Maths	Achieving 9-5 in English & Maths	Achieving 9-4 in English & Maths	Achieving EBacc 9-5	Achieving EBacc 9-4
All students						
School 2022	77%	25%	64%	81%	23%	24%
School 2021	84.7%	25.8%	65.7%	86.4%	21.2%	23.7%
School 2020	76%	19%	59%	79%	20%	22%
School 2019	75%	17%	55%	78%	18%	25%

## The Future

We want to continue to improve the quality of all that we do, especially the quality of the learning experiences we offer our students.

By becoming reflective practitioners, constantly reviewing and evaluating what we teach and how, we believe we can continue to develop as a school. We hope to provide good career development and opportunities for our staff.



The next few years will continue to be both challenging and interesting. We look forward to receiving your application.

## Application Procedure

Please complete the application form on our website at <https://www.priestlands.hants.sch.uk/vacancies/teaching-staff>.

### **Please do not submit additional documentation at this stage**

In the personal statement section of the application form (which may be presented as an attached letter if you so wish), I would ask you specifically to describe on no more than two sides of A4:

- your experience to date;
- your reasons for applying for the post and your suitability for it;
- your view of the challenges and opportunities which would await you in your first year in post.

Applications should be sent to the Headteacher as soon as possible. They will be considered as they are received and we reserve the right to close the vacancy early.

**The deadline for receipt of applications is 12.00noon, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

**Interviews will be held immediately after half term.**



***Priestlands School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment. This post is covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exemptions) Order 1975 and you will be required to declare whether you have any criminal convictions. Priestlands School is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.***