



Lead Teacher of Food Technology

Part-time - 3 days a week

1 Year Fixed Term Contract

Recruitment Pack

Salary: Inner London Teacher
Pay Scale + TLR 2.1

Starting September 2026

Deadline for applications:
Tuesday 12th May at 9am

**We reserve the right to interview as
applications are received**

*Educating Successful Women
of the Future*





Welcome

Thank you for your interest in joining Ricards Lodge High School. We're an outstanding school (Ofsted 2017, reconfirmed September 2023), providing an "exceptional education" for all pupils.

We're a successful, vibrant school for girls aged 11-18, with a strong reputation in performing and visual arts. Our co-educational Sixth Form, RR6, operates from a standalone block, offering academic and applied courses.

We're committed to investing in education. Our new state-of-the-art STEM building features three bespoke science laboratories and a dedicated CAD suite with industry-standard technology.

Our staff deliver high-quality education focused on academic excellence and personal development. We prioritise staff wellbeing and development, supporting teachers to thrive and inspire.

We value staff consultation and voice through timetabled working parties and regular feedback.

We're proud of our diverse community and the harmony we share. Our curriculum and extra-curricular activities prepare students for a changing global society.

Our mission – 'educating successful women of the future' – guides everything we do.

Our School Values

We Aspire
We are Resilient
We have Compassion
We champion Equality
We work Together



About You

You are an enthusiastic and dedicated Food and Nutrition specialist who is ready to lead an area of the D&T Curriculum.

As a subject leader, you will be excited to shape our curriculum for the future and drive recruitment at KS4, playing a key role in our department's exciting 3-year development plan.

You are a fun and focussed teacher who plans and delivers outstanding lessons across all key stages.

You are passionate about empowering students to develop high-level culinary skills, understand nutritional science, and appreciate global food cultures.

You are committed to promoting the highest standards of creativity and technical precision, and you're ready to make your mark in a vibrant, high-achieving department.

You thrive in collaborative teams and busy environments and are excited to raise the visibility of D&T across our school.

EDUCATING SUCCESSFUL WOMEN OF THE FUTURE

1

WE ENJOY LEARNING AND INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGE



2

WE EMPOWER STUDENTS AND VALUE RELATIONSHIPS



3

WE GROW STAFF TALENT AND HAVE A SHARED SENSE OF PURPOSE



4

OUR ESTATE PLAN IS AMBITIOUS AND WE PLAN AND RESOURCE SUSTAINABLY



5

WE INCLUDE PARENTS AND COMMUNITY AND OUR SCHOOL IS A HUB OF ACTIVITY



Design and Technology Department Information

The Design and Technology department at Ricards Lodge High School is led by a multidisciplinary team of specialist teachers, supported by a dedicated, full-time Food Technician and a Design and Technology Technician. Our department functions as a creative hub where technical expertise meets pedagogical innovation, ensuring that students across all key stages receive a world-class education in both modern design and nutritional science.

Our curriculum is thoughtfully structured to empower students to become inventive problem-solvers. At Key Stage 3, we operate a robust rotation system that ensures every student in Years 7, 8, and 9 completes a full term of Food and Nutrition annually. This foundational approach allows students to build a sophisticated understanding of culinary techniques and food chemistry before choosing their pathways at Key Stage 4. Our current offer includes GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition, GCSE Design and Technology (with specialisms in Product Design and Textiles), and A-Level 3D Design for our RR6 students.

There is a vibrant, industrious atmosphere within our studios and kitchens. We take great pride in being a department where knowledge is shared fluidly across year groups. It is common to see our senior students mentoring younger peers or sharing successful design iterations. We actively encourage our students to take calculated risks and experiment with new materials and ingredients, fostering the resilience needed to create truly innovative products.

Beyond the classroom, our staff are committed to a rich program of extracurricular engagement. We host various design and culinary clubs throughout the year, providing a space for students to refine their portfolios or explore advanced techniques. A particular highlight is our Sixth Form enrichment program, which focuses on equipping our RR6 students with the practical cooking skills and nutritional independence they need as they transition to university life. By bridging the gap between traditional craftsmanship and the high-tech capabilities of our new STEM building and CAD suite, we ensure our students are ready to lead in a rapidly evolving world.

As with all departments at Ricards Lodge, all teaching staff are expected to fulfill and uphold the Teachers' Standards in their role.

Job Description

Post Title: Lead Teacher of Food Technology

Job Purpose: All teaching staff are expected to fulfil and uphold the [TEACHERS' STANDARDS](#) in their role.

Curriculum:

- Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of the curriculum area including all statutory requirements to provide a curriculum that is appropriate to the needs of all students.
- Completion, monitoring and evaluating SoW to ensure that the curriculum is appropriately differentiated to meet the needs of all students.
- Promotion of all national/local strategies and priorities within the curriculum area.
- Provision of an enhancement to the curriculum (extracurricular activities: trips/visits/enrichment activities as well as super curricular activities: booster sessions/workshops).
- To formulate, communicate and monitor the progress of the curriculum improvement plan to ensure it makes a significant contribution to the SIP.
- Completion, monitoring and evaluation of the core practical requirements of the course, including the relevant training and upskilling of staff to ensure that this is completed.

Student Outcomes:

- To analyse and monitor the performance of students within the department to ensure that all students are reaching their potential and developing a range of intervention strategies as appropriate
- Accountable to the Head of Department for the development and implementation of student performance across the department at all Key Stages to make a measurable contribution to whole school targets as appropriate.
- Accountable to the Head of Department for the development of alternative courses and accreditation to meet the needs of all students.
- To ensure the well-being and personal development of all students.

Person Specification

The following list shows the essential and desirable characteristics for which we are looking for when considering your application and at interview.

Characteristic	Essential	Desirable	Assessment Method
Qualifications, Knowledge & Training			
Qualified Teacher Status	●		Application
Relevant specialist qualifications in your subject	●		Application
Commitment to CPD	●		Application Interview
Knowledge and understanding of curriculum requirements and developments within your own subject specialism	●		Application Interview
Experience as a form tutor and / or pastoral work		●	Application Interview
Skills & Abilities			
To be able to teach lessons which consistently meet the Teacher Standards	●		Application Interview Lesson Observation
To use a variety of strategies to inspire and engage students and promote a stimulating learning environment to raise attainment	●		Application Interview Lesson Observation
To be a confident user of IT as a teaching tool	●		Application Interview
Ability to make effective use of data and develop timely and relevant intervention strategies to promote student progress		●	Application Interview
Ability and willingness to contribute to the wider life of the faculty / department and whole school, supporting extra-curricular and intervention programmes	●		Application Interview
Excellent verbal and written communication skills with the ability to relate well to the whole school community	●		Application Interview

Person Specification

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Characteristic	Essential	Desirable	Assessment Method
Personal Qualities			
To work well in a team, contributing ideas and supporting faculty / department procedures	●		Application Interview
Energy, enthusiasm, determination and an insistence on high standards	●		Application Interview
Be able to work under pressure, prioritise and manage time effectively	●		Application Interview
Flexibility and resilience	●		Application Interview



Vision for STEM

At Ricards Lodge, our vision for STEM is ambitious. We aspire to become the top destination for students pursuing STEM pathways at A-Level and beyond.

We recognise the significant gender disparity in STEM careers and are committed to inspiring and empowering our young women to envision a future in these fields. Our mission is to demonstrate that STEM careers are not only accessible and achievable, but also, dynamic, exciting, and critical to shaping the future. We strive to instill confidence and motivation in our students to drive the long overdue change in STEM fields.

Our vision has been supported by the DfE, which awarded us a grant to build a new STEM Centre that has just opened in March 2026. This state-of-the-art facility represents a significant milestone in our journey. Our continued focus is on equipping the centre with the tools and technology to foster innovative, effective, and

impactful STEM learning.

In the long term, this initiative will extend beyond KS5 to engage students of all ages. Our vision includes collaborating with the wider Ricards community and local primary schools to ignite a passion for STEM at an early age. By doing so, we aim to provide our young women with a clear and tangible vision of their futures.

A key part of this role involves inspiring interest in Food and nutrition across the school, making it accessible, engaging, and a viable option for further study. You will play a crucial role in supporting and organising extracurricular STEM activities with the wider team. Developments in Food and Nutrition, especially developing our students understanding of how nutrition differs for women, is important to us at Ricards Lodge, as well as developing understanding of food science. You will also work collaboratively with other STEM disciplines to highlight the skills and opportunities that STEM can offer.

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Working at Ricards

Ricards Lodge offers all new staff;

- Strong programme of in-service training for all staff including all leaders through the NPQ suite of courses
- All Early Career Teachers will be provided with continued professional development as outlined in our Early Career Framework policy. Ricards Lodge provides training for mentors and ECT with our partners: Wandle Teaching Alliance and UCL's Faculty of Education and Society.
- A graduate teaching assistant programme leading to teacher training with Teach Wimbledon

The staff are very supportive towards each other with a great camaraderie existing throughout the school with a number of social events that are open to all and well attended

When you come and work at Ricards Lodge High School including our Sixth Form you will be able to benefit from a structured and comprehensive professional development programme. As a valued member of staff we want to ensure that you have access to all the benefits available to you



As a Merton Employee

Benefits include the following:

- Well being weeks including staff breakfast and social events
- A laptop for all teaching staff
- Social staff area and work area for staff
- Access to Merton's Employee Assistance Programme including new wellbeing app with instant access to free support for up to six weeks
- Collaborative approach to teaching and learning
- Merton Employee VDU users – possible to claim a fee towards glasses/eye test
- Annual season ticket travel loans are available
- Parking on site

Google for Education

All successful candidates will be able to complete Google Fundamentals prior to starting work. All staff work towards completing Google level 1 qualification.

Childcare

The London Borough of Merton's Children's Information Service offers a comprehensive service to help meet your childcare needs. The service can be contacted on 020 8545 3800, or send an email to cis@merton.gov.uk. They can provide information on childminders, playgroups, and nurseries and out of school schemes.

If you need any support with accessing the Tax-Free Childcare Scheme administered via HMRC, we can assist.



Working in Wimbledon

Wimbledon is situated in the London Borough of Merton which was formed in 1965 when the areas of Mitcham, Merton, Morden and Wimbledon were joined together to create this attractive green borough nestling on the border of central London and leafy Surrey. Historically, evidence of Celtic settlers has been found in the borough. Caesar's camp, a fortified village on Wimbledon common was in fact occupied 500 years before Julius Caesar was born. Today, after the creation of the new borough provided the impetus for more growth, five town centres have emerged – Colliers Wood, Mitcham, Morden, Raynes Park and Wimbledon. They are all primarily residential areas each with their own commercial and shopping centres.

Wimbledon is exceptionally well served by road, bus and rail links. The main road artery is the A219 which runs off the A3. The road network offers fast access to the M23, and M25 and thus to Channel Tunnel links, major airports and the south coast. The main railway station is Wimbledon which is also a terminus for the District Line of the London Underground network. Frequent trains run to Waterloo Station, (journey time 15 minutes) which is very near to central London. The Tramlink service connects Wimbledon, Merton and Croydon, and there is an extensive bus network. Close by are many attractions such as Hampton Court Palace, Epsom Downs and Racecourse and Box Hill.

Sports lovers are well served in the borough. There are 31 football pitches, 42 tennis courts, 8 bowling greens, 2 crazy golf, 1 croquet lawn, 15 cricket pitches (including one of the world's oldest cricket greens at Mitcham), 7 rugby pitches and 3 trim trails.



There are 13 multisport areas and also a watersport centre, which has a Royal Yachting Association centre and a British Canoe Union approved centre. There is a local community football programme, which is a partnership between the council, AFC Wimbledon and Tooting and Mitcham FC, as well as a Little League. Wimbledon Leisure Centre, one of three within the borough, has a fitness centre, dance studio as well as a 30m main pool and teaching pool.

Venues in Merton present entertainment across the board. The New Wimbledon Theatre is one of south west London's biggest and most prestigious, frequently hosting performances straight from the West End. The famous Polka Children's Theatre is also in the borough together with the All England Tennis Club. Cannizaro Park has a Grade II listed landscape: the Italian garden is used for art events and there is an outdoor theatre season. The Cannizaro Park Festival is one of London's major summer events and has performances of jazz, pop, tribute bands, comedy and many more.



Merton has abundant green spaces and 13 local nature reserves. Wimbledon Common, together with Putney Heath and Common, is a 1140 acre site, 900 acres of which are a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It has woodland, heathland and nine ponds and provides great opportunities for relaxed walks. For the green fingered there are also allotments that can be hired.

Merton Abbey Mills is a famous weekend market with 15 independent shops and over 100 market stalls. There is a riverside pub, children's theatre and working watermill so it makes the perfect place for a family day out. There is also a craft village, antique and collectors market and a toy collector's fair. Deen City Farm, an urban community farm, is another ideal place for family outings. The council also organise a wide range of summer and Easter activities for 3-16 year olds. Wimbledon and the surrounding area is dotted with numerous pubs, bars and restaurants catering for all tastes and purses.

For further information on what the London Borough of Merton can offer, visit www.merton.gov.uk



To discuss this role in more detail or arrange a tour of the school please contact

HR@ricardslodge.org for further information.



Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



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Headteacher: Mrs K Page

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