



Parkstone Grammar School

Teacher of Computing Applicant Pack

Parkstone Grammar School
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Headteacher's Welcome

As the headteacher of Parkstone Grammar School, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to our vibrant and dynamic school community. At Parkstone, we are committed to providing an exceptional educational experience that nurtures the intellectual, social, and emotional growth of every student.

We are a heavily oversubscribed 11-18 selective girls' school offering outstanding education to the students of Poole and its surrounding area. Founded in 1905, Parkstone has continued to provide excellent academic results within a warm, friendly and vibrant community. We are a six-form entry school with 1250 students including 350 in the sixth form.

Our school is a place where students are encouraged to explore their passions, expand their knowledge, and develop critical thinking skills that will serve them well throughout their lives. We have a team of dedicated and highly qualified teachers and support staff who are passionate about education and are committed to inspiring and challenging our students.

We believe in creating a supportive and inclusive environment where each student feels valued and respected. Our students are rightly proud of their school which provides for them a broad and balanced curriculum promoting independence, intellectual curiosity and a love of learning. Subjects offered at GCSE and A Level include academic and facilitating subjects from a very wide range. Our sixth form collaboration with Poole Grammar School for Boys allows us to offer an extensive A Level curriculum.

Students at Parkstone are not only encouraged to succeed academically, but to enjoy the wide range of musical, theatrical, sporting, speaking and charitable opportunities. They thrive in an environment of support and challenge, becoming resilient learners well prepared to succeed in the 21st Century.

The unique single-sex selective environment allows the students to grow in a safe and supportive atmosphere. Parkstone's national reputation for excellence and continued success is testament to the consistent dedication of students, staff and governors.

Ofsted commented that Parkstone offers a 'stimulating, friendly community in which all students are valued and may thrive intellectually, emotionally and physically'. Our school's focus is always on teaching and learning as we strive to challenge these able students to become confident, happy and successful young people.

I invite you to apply to our school, and experience the warm and welcoming atmosphere that makes Parkstone truly special. If you're ready to embark on a rewarding journey where your passion for education meets limitless possibilities, we encourage you to explore the opportunities at Parkstone. Join us in making a difference to our young people and shaping the future together.

David Hallsworth, Headteacher



Our Vision

At Parkstone, we embody the values of Commitment, Courage and Compassion to enable students to adapt and thrive in an evolving world, providing an education that inspires and empowers students to determine and achieve their goals.

COMMITMENT

“Be tenacious and relentless in your curiosity for knowledge”

COURAGE

“Feel confident to achieve your very best and develop your resilience to overcome barriers”

COMPASSION

“You should encourage and care for your peers, value and engage with all cultures and religions in our diverse global community”

“Parkstone has encouraged and inspired me to love learning. There is a great community and I am always supported – just like a family.”

Year 7 Pupil



Our Guiding Principles

- Parkstone will be a seat of exceptional learning where great teachers enjoy autonomy in the classroom to inspire and challenge our able students.
- Very high-quality staff development and peer support to facilitate highly effective learning over time.
- Effective feedback to move students forward in their knowledge and skill development.
- Parkstone will achieve amongst the best schools in the country for the national progress measures at GCSE and A Level.
- A positive ethos underpinned by our values of Courage, Commitment and Compassion.
- Personalised support with highly effective intervention to enable equal access to learning.
- Students will have an understanding of global and national diversity and will be well prepared for life in an ever-evolving world.
- A strong community supported by the staff and student leadership teams.
- Compassionate, high quality advice and guidance to make informed and confident decisions regarding life after Parkstone.
- Opportunities outside the classroom which provide holistic development.
- To engage in initiatives and charity projects to contribute to the local and wider community.
- A broad, balanced and inspiring curriculum appropriate to Parkstone.
- An inspiring learning environment underpinned by a research culture and reflective practice.
- Our community will have high expectations of everyone in line with our Values and Charter.
- To instil a sense of stewardship towards our local, national and global environment.



“Teachers are knowledgeable and enthusiastic. They inspire and sustain a love of learning in their pupils.”

Ofsted Report



Our School Charter

In our community it is important that we should maintain high standards and take responsibility for our own actions.

OUR COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

- To uphold the values of our school
- To treat all persons and the environment of the school with respect
- To apply ourselves to all areas of school life
- To empower all to do our best and to take care of each other
- To challenge any inequality and prejudiced attitudes

OUR RIGHTS

- To be treated with respect by all members of our community
- To feel safe both emotionally and physically in our school environment
- To participate in all the opportunities that our school offers
- To know where we can access support and guidance
- To be challenged appropriately where we fall short of our responsibilities



“Parkstone was the very best option for our daughter and has helped her grow in confidence and equipped her for university and life beyond!”

Parent



Ofsted

Key findings of this Outstanding School

“Under the headteacher’s calm, authoritative and exceptionally effective leadership, the school has improved rapidly since the previous inspection”.

“Leadership at all levels is very strong. Governors, senior leaders, middle leaders and other staff work harmoniously together to provide high-quality education for pupils”.

“Pupils make remarkable progress by the time they take their GCSEs in Year 11. This is sustained in the sixth form”.

“By the time they leave school, pupils have attained consistently at the highest levels and are extremely well prepared for the next stage of their education or employment”.

“Disadvantaged pupils make exceptional progress during their time at the school. Their rates of progress are much higher than other pupils nationally with the same starting points”.

“School leaders make very good use of targeted training to develop teachers’ professional knowledge and skills. As a result, teaching continues to improve”.

“Teachers are knowledgeable and enthusiastic. They inspire and sustain a love of learning in their pupils. Teachers have an unswerving faith in the ability of their pupils to succeed and give their time unselfishly to ensure that this happens”.

“Pupils are confident and articulate learners. They take great pride in their work and are determined to succeed”.

“Pupils’ behaviour is impeccable and their positive attitudes to learning are exemplary. They are hungry to learn and attendance rates are high, including in the sixth form”.

“The sixth form is outstanding. Students follow very well developed 16 to 19 study programmes”.

“Disadvantaged students prosper in the sixth form and in recent years all have gone on to university”.



Benefits

Parkstone is pleased to be able to offer all staff members the following benefits

Core Benefits

- A contributory pension scheme relevant to your role (including access to Teacher and Local Government Schemes).
- Occupational sick pay.
- Tailored Continuous Professional Development (CPD) through the South Central Teaching Hub.
- Free access to the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) - confidential support network that offers expert advice and compassionate guidance 24/7 covering a wide range of issues, such as: Legal Information, Bereavement Support and Online CBT among much more.
- All staff are entitled to a 'Golden Day' once a year – a paid day off or part time equivalent.
- Free Yoga and Pilates sessions throughout the term.
- Termly Staff Wellbeing and Workload groups to raise and solve issues.

Flexible Benefits

- Cycle to work scheme



Teacher of Computing (0.62 FTE)

DETAILS OF THE POST

This post becomes available from 1st January 2025, or sooner, and offers excellent prospects for a committed and enthusiastic candidate to work within our successful and innovative Computing Department.

We are looking to appoint an outstanding teacher to teach Computing at KS3, GCSE and A level. Our students are academically able, well-motivated and achieve excellent results.

We are seeking a colleague who enjoys working in a team, can provide a stimulating atmosphere in the classroom and inspire our students to give their best. All teachers are expected to act as form teachers and to assist with the extra-curricular activities of the school and the teaching of associated subjects, e.g. Year 12 Enrichment, if required. Enthusiasm, patience and calmness under pressure are vital qualities. Please see the attached Person Specification for further details of our requirements.

THE DEPARTMENT

Computing is a popular course at Parkstone with very good results at GCSE and A level, with many students going on to study Computing-related degrees after they complete their Advanced Level studies.

Computing is taught by an innovative department in a school which places value on independent learning through the creative journey. This subject is currently based around Computing, ICT and Digital Literacy at KS3 and ICT at A level.

Students are encouraged to take a broad-based approach to the subject and independent learning is seen as a key factor in promoting individualism and the realisation of digital products. The Leadership Group and Governors are extremely supportive of the department and appreciate both its curricular importance and the role it plays in promoting the school.

CURRICULUM

Key Stage 3

Students in Years 7 and 8 have 2, and Year 9 have 3, one-hour sessions of Computing per fortnight. The curriculum is structured to enable students to work with a range of software-based scenarios e.g. programming using Python and Scratch, multi-media applications, Advanced Office techniques, video and animation, website design and creation to name but a few.

Key Stage 4 – OCR J277 Computer Science

Students in Years 10 and 11 have 4, one-hour sessions of Computing per fortnight which are split between J277/01 and J277/02. At the end of Year 11 there are two exams worth 50% each.



Key Stage 5 - OCR H446 Computer Science

Students in Years 12 and 13 have 9, one-hour sessions of Computing per fortnight which are split between H446/01 and H446/01. In Year 13 students work on a programming project worth 20% of the final grade. At the end of Year 13 there are two exams worth 40% each.

Sets

Current GCSE Sets:

- Year 10 - 2 sets J277 Computer Science
- Year 11 - 2 sets J277 Computer Science

Current A Level Sets:

- 1 set H446 Computer Science

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Students are very enthusiastic in their involvement in KS3 and KS4 lunchtime Computing Clubs. We also run an after school CyberClub that enters the National Cipher Challenge run by Southampton University.

The department also supports GCSE and GCE students with a catch-up lesson once a week for those who have missed lessons or just want some extra help.

The department runs an Escape Room with local primary schools.



Person Specification

We are seeking a highly skilled colleague who will be dynamic and committed to the school. The qualities/skills/experience we are looking for include:

- excellent academic/professional qualifications
- excellent classroom skills reflecting the standards laid out in the Teachers' Standards document 2012
- the highest possible expectations of standards of behaviour and attainment
- a proven record of success in teaching Computing and the ability to teach at Advanced Level. ECT applications are welcomed.
- the ability to demonstrate enthusiasm and passion for the subject
- an awareness of current developments in the subject
- the ability to use data on student achievement as effectively as possible
- ICT skills that enable you to make the best use of new technology to support teaching and learning
- excellent inter-personal skills
- the ability to work well within a team and contribute to planning of schemes of work
- a willingness to carry out coursework supervision and marking
- an excellent rapport with both students and colleagues
- decision-making skills
- excellent communication and presentation skills
- the ability to work effectively under pressure
- a commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students
- a commitment to the wider life of the school
- a commitment to equality of opportunity
- a commitment to continuous improvement and professional development
- boundless energy and a sense of humour!



Contact us

If you would like more information about Parkstone Grammar School please email recruitment@parkstone.poole.sch.uk

Alternatively, if you wish to discuss the vacancy please call 01202 605605 8.00 – 4.30 Monday to Thursday and 8.00 – 4.00 on a Friday.

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