Teacher of Biology

Departmental information

This is an exciting opportunity for an outstanding, enthusiastic graduate teacher of biology to join a high achieving science faculty at Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School, a highly oversubscribed and successful 11–18 grammar school in the Manchester commuter belt.

This full-time position requires you to be a motivated team player who is able to consistently deliver high quality lessons to Year 7 to 13 students. The school is selective for entry to Year 7 by 11-plus examination and requires students at post-16 to have obtained a grade 6 in biology or grade 6,6 in combined science if they wish to study biology at A-level.

This is an excellent opportunity either for a hardworking NQT or an experienced colleague wishing to move to a role which will give them the opportunity to work with fantastic young people and push themselves to incorporate high quality subject specific teaching and learning methods into their practice.

The Physics, Biology and Chemistry departments are staffed by a strong team of specialists and results in external examinations are consistently very good. The science faculty as a whole is led by the Head of Physics, Andrew Wilkinson. Claire Black is Head of Biology and Tom Heaton is Head of Chemistry. There are six further teachers of biology. The three science departments work together as a faculty, but are given autonomy and trusted to make decisions that best benefit the teaching of their subject. There is a sound working relationship between science staff, which is based on mutual respect and good humour.

The departments have well-equipped laboratories, with smart boards and visualisers, and enjoy excellent support from the Science Faculty Manager. She has responsibility for the laboratories, ordering and maintenance of equipment, and is in charge of two laboratory technicians.

At Key Stage 3, we teach science over Year 7 and Year 8 and all science teachers share in the teaching of science (3 hours per week). In Year 9 we begin teaching the GCSE course to specialism, following the AQA specification for all three GCSE sciences. In Year 10, the year groups are divided into seven sets, with a total of 5 hours of teaching in each subject per fortnight, with two top ability sets able to be challenged more than the other five sets.

At A-level, biology is one of the most popular choices and almost 140 students are currently following the AQA Biology course. Currently there are five Year 13 classes and five Year 12 classes studying A-level Biology. Each A-level class has two teachers who share 9 hours teaching per fortnight. Results at GCSE and A-level are consistently above the national average which is testament to the motivation and hard work of our students and staff. Each summer we run an A-level fieldwork visit to Formby to enable students to develop their use of sampling techniques and demonstrate essential skills for practical endorsement.

Students are given the opportunity to undertake extra-curricular activities such as STEM club, competitions including The Physiological Society’s Bio Bakes and the RSB Biology Challenge and Biology Olympiads. The appointed member of staff would have the opportunity to play a key role in these activities.

If you have any questions about the post or the department, please e-mail Claire Black at ceb@brgs.org.uk