



Parkstone Grammar School

Teacher of Biology

Applicant Pack

Parkstone Grammar School
Sopers Lane, Poole, Dorset, BH17 7EP
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recruitment@parkstone.poole.sch.uk





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

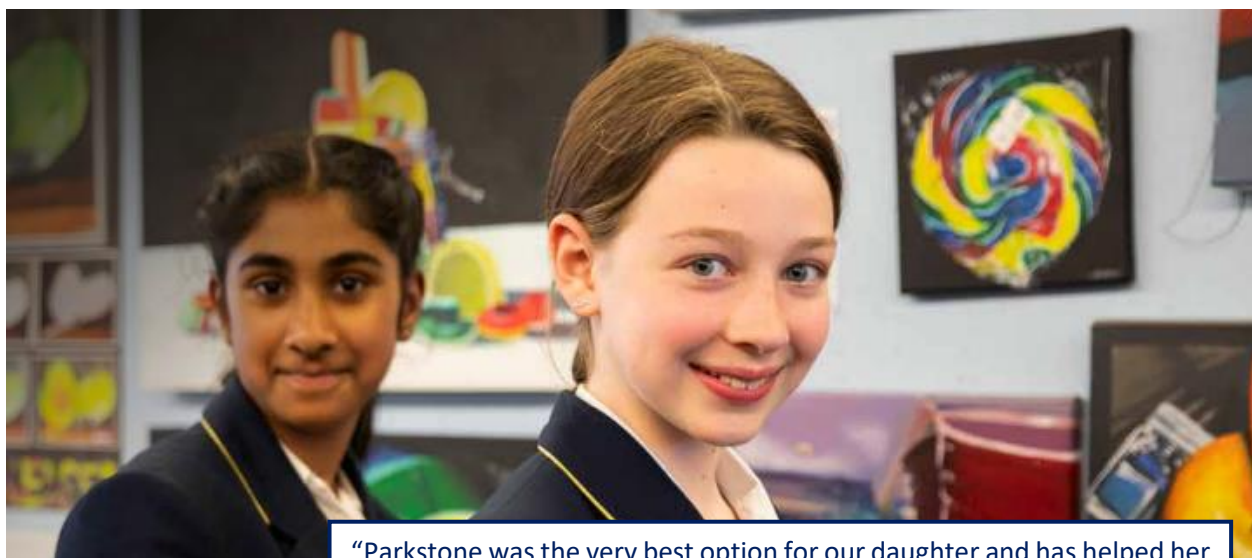
In our community it is important that we should maintain high standards and take responsibility for our own actions.

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:

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
- Eligibility to join the Blue Light Card scheme.



Teacher of Biology

DETAILS OF THE POST

This permanent post becomes available from 1 September 2025.

This is an excellent opportunity for a committed and enthusiastic candidate to work in a highly effective and very successful Biology Department. It is essential for the successful candidate to be able to teach Biology to GCSE and Science at KS3, with A Level Biology preferable. They should be someone who can continue to inspire, enthuse and bring out the best in all our able students. **In addition to more experienced colleagues, this post is also suitable for ECTs.**

All teachers are expected to act as form tutors and to assist with the extra-curricular activities of the school and the teaching of associated subjects.

THE DEPARTMENT

The Biology Department consists of 6 teaching staff and appropriate Technician support. Each Science has a Head of Department, and there is also a Head of Key Stage 3 Science.

CURRICULUM

Staff are committed to maximising student achievement and examination results in the department are excellent.

Years 7 & 8: Students follow a coordinated course, with a very strong emphasis on learning skills, essential Science investigatory and problem-solving skills, as well as meeting statutory requirements for KS3 in terms of content. Students are taught KS3 Science with 6 hourly lessons in a fortnight. The Head of Key Stage 3 Science is responsible for the leading of Key Stage 3 with the Biology Department contributing through resources for the Biology component.

Years 9-11: All students follow a course that leads to Separate Science GCSE 9-1 Biology EDEXCEL (1BIO) and are taught in 8 groups. The students undertake 4 lessons of Biology, 4 Chemistry and 4 Physics in a two-week lesson cycle.

A Level

Biology: OCR (Spec A) (H420)

Uptake at A Level is extremely healthy with 4 groups in both Year 12 and 13 currently.

Year 12 & 13 groups have 9 periods per fortnight shared between two teachers.



LABORATORIES AND RESOURCES

The Biology Department is very well resourced and there are 4 fully equipped laboratories and 2 Prep Room areas for Biology.

The department also has access to a trolley of laptop computers for student use, all wirelessly linked to the curriculum network. The main Science lobby area also has workstations for private student study.

Science has been well equipped over the last few years and storage provision is well organised by the experienced Technicians. ICT is used extensively by the students and all teachers are provided with a laptop.

DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

- The Parkstone Biology Department regularly sends students to Oxford and Cambridge, Medical/Veterinary Schools and a variety of Pure and Applied Science courses at universities.
- There is an active body of Biology Prefects in Years 12 and 13 who undertake a variety of roles including mentoring, organising discussion groups and helping on Open Evenings.
- A Biology newsletter entitled 'Bazinga' is produced each half term by the Year 12 and 13 prefects.
- Within Biology, there is a rigorous marking and monitoring system in place to ensure students fulfil their potential, with the use of a department developed support card system.
- All staff have had extensive professional development which enhances their teaching and managerial skills.
- All staff are supportive and there is a strong team ethos within the department.
- Students are entered every year for Biology Olympiads.



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
- the ability to teach KS3 science and GCSE Biology. The ability to teach A Level Biology is desirable.
- 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
- 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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