Spalding Grammar School
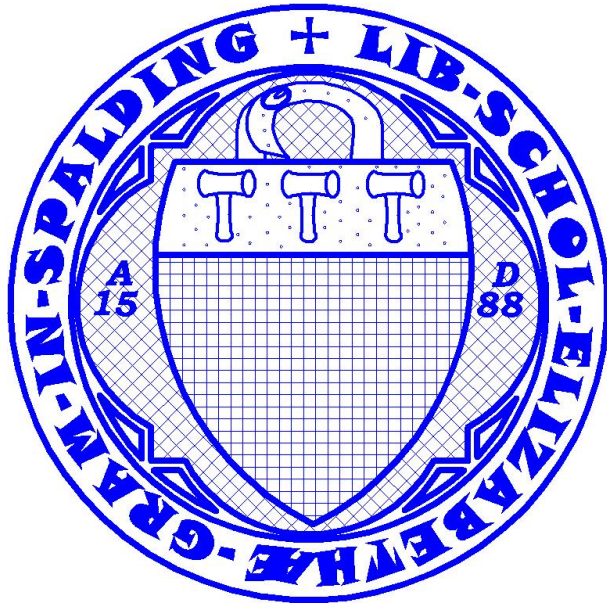

Appointment to the position of Teacher of Computer Science

September 2023

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GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Founded in 1588 by Royal Charter, Spalding Grammar School was located within a part of Spalding Parish Church, called St Thomas's Chapel, until the 19th century. The School moved to its current site in 1881 and doubled in size when it amalgamated with Moulton Grammar School which closed in 1939. The School now occupies an enviable, spacious site, including 17 acres of Governor-owned playing fields, five minutes from the town centre. Teaching accommodation has been significantly improved and developed in the last twenty years, incorporating a large sports complex, a new English block and Library, a dedicated Business Centre, extended Sixth Form facilities and a multi-purpose Atrium. The School was awarded Academy status in 2013.

The School is academically selective and admits the top 25% of the population as determined by standardised verbal and non-verbal reasoning tests. There are generally five forms of entry with an admission number of 150 pupils. Pupils are taught mainly in mixed-ability groups throughout the School, although setting does operate in mathematics from Year 7, and in English, modern languages and science from Year 9.

There is a common curriculum for the first three years, in which pupils study the National Curriculum core and foundation subjects. Every student studies a modern foreign language as well as Latin. Pupils also engage in lessons in core physical education and PaCE (Personal and Careers Education).

At GCSE, the majority of pupils will take ten subjects, including three options. A modern foreign language is compulsory. Depending on ability, some pupils will take a second qualification in mathematics; others will take dual award science, rather than three separate disciplines. Pupils continue to pursue both core physical education and PaCE.

The Sixth Form, which is coeducational, has grown in recent years and now attracts many students seeking to join us from other schools. At present there are approximately 240 students in the Sixth Form, of which approximately one quarter are female. Our curriculum model, in light of post-16 reform, is that all students take three A Level courses, alongside an enrichment elective in Year 12. For some students, an additional pathway of four A Level subjects is available.

The School aims to develop individuals, both personally and academically, and has thus implemented a form system which allows all Year groups to come together for a variety of structured activities such as mentoring, personal study, presentations and debating sessions. All teachers, as well as some members of the support staff, carry out the role of Form Tutor within one of the School's six Houses.

A large part of what goes on at the School happens outside the classroom. The School's main sports are Rugby, Football, Hockey, Athletics and Cricket, but numerous other options are available. The School competes very successfully with many other schools in the county and beyond. Many students are involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and are developed through the challenges and opportunities that this affords. We also offer a skiing trip each year, exchanges and work experience activities in France, Germany or Spain, as well as several other foreign visits.

The School's principal aim is to ensure that all students and staff have every opportunity to attain their potential intellectually, socially and personally. Relationships between staff and students of all ages are exemplary, and there is a friendly and orderly atmosphere which, in combination with a stimulating academic environment, develops the qualities that lead to successful examination results.

Staff have the use of a modern staff room, complete with catering and reprographic facilities. Many staff who join the School speak of the warmth with which they have been received and they consider it a very friendly place to work. Continuing Professional Development for the staff, under the guidance of a dedicated Staff Tutor, is of paramount importance and there are many opportunities for individuals to both develop their practice and advance their career. The teaching and learning environment is supported by a dedicated team of support staff who work in harmony with the teaching staff to create a mutually supportive work place.

The School operates as a cohesive community. The Parents' Association is very strong; it enriches the life of the School through a wide variety of events, as well as raising in excess of £10,000 for the School each year. Support for charities and community projects is also very positive. The Governing Body is also highly supportive of the School and its members are often a visible presence around the place.

Located in South Holland, Spalding is a pleasant market town in a largely rural area within easy reach of Peterborough and the A1. The people are very friendly and the pace of life is relaxed. There is a local entertainment venue, the South Holland Centre, in the town which provides a variety of live entertainment. House prices compare very favourably with those in most other parts of the country and there are a number of primary schools within the local area which provide for all abilities and faiths. The town is also served by our sister grammar school (Spalding High School) and a comprehensive school.

THE COMPUTER SCIENCE AND IT DEPARTMENT

The Computer Science and IT Department is an increasingly popular department: over a third of Year 9 students choose to study the Computer Science at GCSE. There are 59 students in the current Year 10 taking Computer Science and 39 in Year 11. At the school we follow the AQA 8525 specification for Computer Science and teach in the Python programming language.

Student take-up at A Level is equally gaining strength: there are currently 16 students studying Computer Science in Years 12 and 9 in Year 13. We follow the OCR H446 specification for Computer Science. We also offer the OCR Cambridge Technical L3 in IT and currently have a cohort in Year 12.

The department is also increasingly successful in the results it secures. In 2022 the A Level students achieved 50% A*-A and 100% A*-C at Computer Science. All the L3 IT students achieved the top grade of Distinction* and at GCSE 49% of students achieved a 9-7 grade with 95% achieving a 9-4 grade.

Students are taught in two purpose-built suites. The department team is currently made up of two specialist teachers. We have made good use of the technology available to make workload manageable so that we can focus on continuous improvement and to fully understand where and how progress is being made by students. The Head of Subject is a Microsoft Innovative Education Expert, and we use the full Office suite to our and our student's advantage.

In Years 7 - 9 students are taught to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum through a variety of different means. A lot of emphasis is placed on developing digital skills and on building coding proficiency. When students reach the end of Year 13, they are generally very proficient at writing code and are ready to stand out at university should they choose to carry on with their Computer Science journey. Units are regularly re-worked and improved to reflect an ever-changing technology landscape but at all times we attempt to make the content as enjoyable and varied as we can, and we are always receptive to new ideas in order to improve the experience for our students.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Salary:

£28,000 - £43,685, depending on experience

Accountable to:

Head of Computer Science

Responsible for:

Teaching Computer Science throughout the School.
Achieving the highest possible standards from students, maintaining and developing subject-specific knowledge and skills and contributing to department and pastoral teams within the School.

Specific Responsibilities:

a) Curriculum: you will teach Computer Science and/or ICT throughout the School. You will be responsible for maintaining good subject knowledge in those disciplines taught.

b) Teaching and Learning: you will plan and teach well-structured lessons that promote subject-specific skills and knowledge, a love of learning and intellectual curiosity. You will develop and implement a varied and effective range of teaching strategies that promote the highest standards of students' learning within your lessons. You will differentiate in your teaching to both stretch and challenge the most able while supporting less able students.

c) Students' Progress: you will be accountable for the progress of students in your classes. You will be aware of students' prior attainment and current achievement, encourage students to set aspirational targets and guide each student to reflect on their progress and take agreed steps to improve.

d) Reporting: you will communicate effectively with parents with regard to students' progress at formal reporting periods and when required.

e) Professional Development: you will take responsibility for improving your teaching and students' learning through appropriate internal and external development opportunities. Your development will be managed by your Head of Department through the Appraisal process.

f) Teaching room: you will ensure your specialist teaching room is attractive and well-kept to create a safe and stimulating learning environment.

g) Behaviour Management: you will have high expectations of students' behaviour for learning as set out in the school's Code of Conduct and enforced through the Behaviour Policy.

h) Broader contribution: you will be prepared to make a contribution to the broader development of students through, for example, enrichment trips or activities.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Criteria	Essential	Desirable	Evidence
Qualifications	• Good Honours degree • Qualified Teacher Status	• Additional qualifications to extend knowledge and skills in computer science	• Application Form
Professional Experience	• Successful training in teaching computer science • Potential to develop into an outstanding teacher • Knowledge of current educational developments in computer science	• Experience of teaching computer science in the Grammar School environment	• Application Form • Interview process • References
Professional Relationships	• Potential to motivate, challenge and inspire students in computer science lessons • Potential to contribute to the Computer Science Department development plans	• Proven ability to motivate, challenge and inspire students • Experience of contributing to department development priorities	• Application Form • Interview process • References
Teaching and Learning	• Commitment to personal and professional development • Commitment to try and develop teaching strategies that enhance learning for all students in computer science • Potential to use data to support students' learning, set targets and monitor improvement	• Experience in using Go4Schools to track and monitors students' progress. • Success in raising student achievement through review, evaluation and intervention.	• Application Form • Interview process • References
Form Tutor	• A teacher who actively supports the school's commitment to tutoring at Spalding Grammar School • Commitment to supporting the personal development of all students within the tutor group		• Application Form • Interview process • References
Personal Qualities	• Enthusiasm, drive and a love for the job • A good sense of humour • Ability to work under pressure • Ability to organise, plan and prioritise time effectively • Commitment to the School's safeguarding policies and standards		• Application Form • Interview process • References

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants wishing to view the School and the Computer Science Department in advance of making an application are invited to enquire. Please contact Debbie Haslam, the Headmaster's PA, if you would like to make such an arrangement.

Applications should be made by:

- Completing the School's application form (CVs will not be accepted as an alternative to a completed form)
- Providing a supporting letter (on no more than two sides of A4, font size 11 if typed). The letter should include how you meet the person specification and how your skills and experience to date make you the ideal candidate for this post.

Applications should be sent either by email, to dhaslam@spaldinggrammar.lincs.sch.uk, or by post, to:

Mrs D Haslam
Headmaster's PA
Spalding Grammar School
Priory Road
Spalding
Lincolnshire PE11 2XH

The closing date for applications is **Tuesday 18 April 2023, at 12 noon**

Interviews will take place in the week beginning **Monday 24 April**

I thank you for your interest in Spalding Grammar School and I look forward to hopefully receiving your application.

S M Wilkinson
Headmaster