



# Wimbledon College



## Teacher of English (Full time 1 year maternity cover) Applicant Information Pack



Jesuit Schools

# Teacher of English

**required from September 2022 (Full time 1 year maternity cover)**

**Salary scale : WCMS/UPS[Inner London]**

**Closing date: 12pm Tuesday 16th August**

We are seeking to appoint a dynamic and innovative candidate to join our excellent English Department which comprises of eight teaching staff. Each member of the department is seen as an integral part of the team, working together, sharing ideas and developing resources cohesively. The successful candidate will have the capacity to bring innovative ideas to the classroom and show a strong record of raising student attainment through their teaching.

The English Department is a close team who work hard to teach lively and engaging lessons, seeking to help pupils of all abilities develop their competence and enthusiasm for the key areas of reading, writing and speaking and listening. Enrichment is provided by extra-curricular activities in drama, debating, public speaking, a journalism club and theatre trips. Underpinning all our work is the school's ethos of 'cura personalis' (the care of the individual).

## Job Specification

- Teach such a way as to challenge and inspire students of all abilities to achieve high standards, in line with the Department's schemes of work and external examination courses.
- Plan, prepare and teach lessons according to the students' educational needs with reference to prior attainment, subject targets, SEND and other needs, as required
- Liaise with support staff, such as Learning Support Assistants, to ensure a coherent programme of study for the students in your classes
- Assess, record and report on the development, progress and attainment of students in line with school and department policies
- Set high expectations for students' behaviour establishing and maintaining a good standard of discipline through well focused teaching, effective classroom management and through positive and productive relationships
- Be familiar with, support and reinforce the aims, Jesuit ethos, policies, procedures and development plans of the school and department
- Take an active part within the school's monitoring, evaluation and review programmes, professional development activities and teachers' appraisal structure and cycle
- Take on the role of Form Tutor
- Attend staff briefings and departmental meetings
- Carry out a share of supervising duties in accordance with published schedules.
- Carrying out such other tasks commensurate with the above as may be required from time to time by the Head Master

## Person Specification

- You will be suitably qualified to teach in the UK with a PGCE and QTS
- You will have a degree in English or a related subject
- You will be able to teach English at KS3, KS4 and KS5
- You will strive to deliver a high quality learning experience for all students
- You will believe all students can achieve to a high standard
- You will have energy, enthusiasm, flexibility and determination to succeed
- You will have good interpersonal and organisation skills
- You will be able to communicate effectively both orally and in writing
- You will have a strong commitment to the school's Jesuit ethos and values
- You will have a strong commitment to your own Continuous Professional Development
- Your administration and communication are efficient and positive

# Department Information

## Aims and Objectives

The English Department is a close team who work hard to teach lively and engaging lessons, seeking to help pupils of all abilities to achieve their potential whilst developing their love of reading, writing and speaking. The department is committed to ensuring that the curriculum is relevant to and representative of our student body, and that learning opportunities are provided both within and outside of the classroom. Enrichment is provided by extra-curricular activities in drama, debating, public speaking, short story writing and theatre trips. Underpinning all of our work is the school's ethos of 'cura personalis' (the care of the individual) and exploring the importance of being 'men and women for

## English Department Staff

The department consists of a team of enthusiastic, very dedicated and hardworking people who, together, ensure that all pupils achieve their full potential. We are also involved in Teach Wimbledon, and therefore regularly have a trainee teacher within the department as well.

**Head of Department** Ms K Main

**KS3 Coordinator** Ms A Walker

**KS5 Coordinator** Mr M Simpson

Teachers of English Ms A Black-Thompson  
Ms A Torto

Mr L Hillhouse  
Ms L Yeung



## Accommodation and Resources

The department has a specially designated English Staff Room, where each teacher has their own PC, plus work and storage areas. Seven English classrooms are located nearby, each with interactive whiteboards. Separate classroom libraries for the lower and upper schools are accommodated in a classroom near to the Staff Room.

## English Curriculum

At KS3, pupils have four periods a week of 50 minutes each which increases to 5 periods a week in KS4. There are currently 7 groups in Years 7-9 and 8 classes in Years 10 & 11. English Literature is taught in the Sixth Form, with English Language and Literature also being taught at our sister school.



# Information about the College



Wimbledon College is a popular and oversubscribed school which prides itself on its exam results at both GCSE and A level with results significantly above national averages. As a Jesuit school, our ethos can be summed up by St Ignatius Loyola's vision for Jesuit schools as being "for improvement in living and learning for the greater glory of God and the common good." Central to St Ignatius' vision and to the College is the education of the whole person, providing each pupil with the opportunity to strive for excellence in all that they do.



The school is accommodated in striking Grade II listed buildings on Edge Hill, above the parish church of the Sacred Heart, on a spacious green site in a conservation area. Private and public funds have facilitated a substantial development of the facilities of the College over the last fifteen years.



The College currently has close to 1300 boys on roll including 270 in the Sixth Form. It is a great place to work with a supportive, committed staff who share the school's high expectations. All teachers are specialists in their subjects and there is a well-established CPD programme which encourages staff to work collaboratively on self-identified areas of research and pedagogy.



Wimbledon College has a strong system of pastoral care and discipline. All teachers are form tutors and work with Heads of Line in ensuring every boy is supported, cared for and challenged to progress academically and become involved in the wider life of the school. The school's intake is truly comprehensive academically, socially and economically and ethnically. It draws from across southwest London and from Surrey and north of the Thames also. Last year saw boys join the College from over 40 different schools. Places in Y7 are regularly oversubscribed threefold.

We encourage all of our boys to be involved in extra-curricular clubs and activities and we offer over 80 different such opportunities to the boys. The school has a strong tradition of drama and music as well as a very extensive sports programme in the school, financially supported by parents' donations to the School Fund.

We were graded as Good in our most recent Ofsted inspection in 2017, below are some the key findings:

- "The school provides an inclusive, orderly and welcoming environment where pupils achieve well and enjoy their learning.
- Pupils benefit from strong levels of support, guidance and care through the chaplaincy and pastoral teams. This contributes effectively to their positive attitudes to learning and prepares them well for the next steps in their education.
- All pupils are encouraged to be 'men for others' through the embodiment of the school's core values.



# Staff Development

At Wimbledon College, we believe that professional development is an essential and inherent part of your role regardless of the stage you are at in your career or the position you hold. This results in bespoke CPD journeys based on your current position and the trajectory you would like your career to go in. Every staff member is supported along that journey. Through a combination of internal and external CPD opportunities staff are able to develop their own skills and competencies and then have the opportunity to share those with colleagues from the College and across the borough.

We use a range of resources and strategies within and outside the College to achieve this:

- We have staff completing external leadership courses such as NPQs and Merton specific Leadership Courses
- We engage with a wide range of organisations, including UCL, Bluesky and PixL to support the delivery of our extensive professional development programme for both career progression and skills development tailored to individual needs
- We have a coaching programme to allow both teaching and non teaching staff to share best practice and offer career advice and guidance.
- We have in-school groups that work collaboratively on projects around a chosen topic such as promoting literacy across the curriculum



If you are starting your teaching career with us, we partner with Teach Wimbledon and Roehampton University to welcome both Schools' Direct and PGCE students. We also have a comprehensive Early Career Teacher support system where you will receive an individual mentor, reduced timetable and opportunities to embed your learning.

We fully appreciate the importance of training for support staff and have a generous budget to ensure that external courses are available in addition to in school training for all interested support staff.

Our aim is to empower staff to ascertain their own professional needs, both within and around their role,



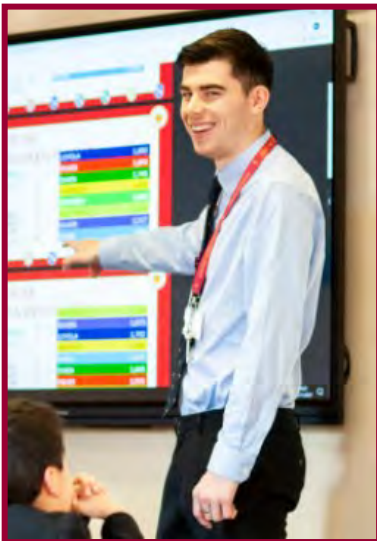
# Working at Wimbledon College



*"I'm really pleased to have joined the Sixth Form team this year as Head of Rhetoric (Y13). Supporting students at such an important time of transition in their lives comes with a great deal of unexpected challenges. Thankfully, I have a lot of experienced staff in the pastoral support team to lean on. I try to stay as organised as possible and 'control the controllables' so that I can respond to any problems arising with a clear mind. Of course it's a demanding job but seeing my students engage with learning in a positive way and start to achieve success is equally rewarding."*

*"I've really enjoyed developing my career from NQT to Head of Department in the time I have been at Wimbledon College. I have been well supported every step of the way and am looking forward to the opportunities and challenges being HOD will offer me. I am hoping to expand the History department by offering more extra curricular activities and continuing with the work to ensure our curriculum reflects the diversity of the students."*

**Claire, Head of Department**



*"Being an ECT I feel so lucky to be in such a supportive environment at Wimbledon College. All the staff have been so welcoming and encouraging. The pupils have a real drive to learn which makes it a pleasure to teach them. I have especially enjoyed getting involved with the plethora of extra curricular activities, including coaching a Year 9 rugby team. There is a great sense of camaraderie between the staff and there is a really cohesive rather than competitive atmosphere."*

**James, ECT**

*For my first teaching position I doubt I could have landed in a school more supportive and encouraging than Wimbledon College. The atmosphere at the school really is one of positivity, care and support; and with that support, it's hard not to throw yourself into school life. As a Head of House, it's a pleasure to seeing students encourage each other to get involved in all manner of house activities, from sports day to swimming, chess club to rugby, all with the goal of winning the illustrious house championship. The opportunities offered to student and staff alike are abundant. I've been able to share my love for the countryside with the students in getting involved with the DofE programme, undertake an NPQ alongside my teaching, take on the roles of Head of house and Co KS3 science coordinator, and above all else, coach the mighty u13C rugby team to some spectacular wins.*

**Tom, NQT+1**



# Testimonials

## Rhetoric (Y13) Leavers' reflections on their time at the College



*"I am very proud of having been part of a Jesuit school. It not only brings a sense of belonging in the sense of feeling part of the Jesuit family. All the boys have a real sense of community and I have made long standing friendships"*

*"The opportunities I have had this year to go so much further into the life of the school has made me realise how much people really do care about it. Especially the staff, who have inspired me to love my subjects and would go so far to get what's best for each and every pupil. The daily interactions with them are invaluable."*



*"I feel very proud to call myself a student of Wimbledon College. Whether it was doing up my tie in the morning with seven stripes or holding my hand on my heart above the Wimbledon College logo when I was preparing for a football game for the school, I always knew that my identity was a Catholic student of Wimbledon College, and I aimed to show that in everything I did, in and out of school. Every member of staff along the way encouraged me, and influenced me to work to my strengths, furthering my admiration of the subject, and overall, the teachers made me feel a sense of pride about my God-given talents."*



*"I don't believe any other school focuses on the men that we shall become and how we will impact the world around us, and for that reason I am proud to have attended the College. I have been able to achieve targets in and out of the classroom which I am very proud of, and there have been teachers along the way that I have always been able to turn to. Wimbledon College has furthered my development into a young man who is ready for the next step in his life, and I believe that is all a school is there to do"*

*"Every opportunity that comes my way to help my fellow students in need is an integral part of life at Wimbledon College. The school encourages us to live for the success of not only ourselves, but our colleagues likewise."*



*"Wimbledon College has given me opportunities that I never dreamed of doing and has taught me how to be a better man through respecting other, listening and adapting myself to challenging situations."*

*"The College has allowed me to become an individual who acts as a natural leader, sharing success with peers. Wimbledon College brings out the philosophical side, and allows for a deeper meaning of our world, that will encourage us to explore more when we leave."*



# Working in a Jesuit School

You may be a committed Roman Catholic and know a lot about the Jesuits, or you may be from a different faith, or have no religious background. You may know little or nothing about the Jesuits. Whichever it may be, we hope this short introduction will help you to gain a basic understanding of what Jesuit schools are, and to decide whether a Jesuit school is a place where you will be happy and thrive.

## **The Jesuits**

The Society of Jesus (popularly known as the Jesuits) is a Religious Order within the Catholic Church. Founded in 1540 by St Ignatius Loyola and nine companions, there are around 18,000 Jesuits today in almost every country of the world.

Most Jesuits are priests, but there are also Jesuit Brothers and Jesuits in studies preparing for ordination. Jesuits take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and lead a common life in community. As well as in schools and universities, Jesuits are to be found in a wide range of other works from parishes and retreat houses, to hospitals and prisons, missions in developing countries, work with refugees, in scientific laboratories, medicine and health care, film, television and the arts, architecture, business and industry, politics and community action, spiritual direction, writing, academic and social research, philosophy, theology and biblical studies, interreligious dialogue, archaeology and astronomy, and military chaplaincy.

## **Jesuit schools**

There are eleven Jesuit schools in Britain, including two comprehensive schools, one state primary school, two senior independent boarding schools, four preparatory schools, and an independent day school in Scotland with its own junior school.

These schools are part of a much wider network of Jesuit education. The Society of Jesus is responsible for 3,780 primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities educating some 2½ million students in over 70 countries. This great responsibility and enterprise is undertaken in partnership with thousands of lay people, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, who share the vision and spirit of Jesuit education. It is their generosity and commitment which make the Jesuit identity and mission of the schools a reality. All of the Jesuit schools in Britain are led by lay head teachers.

In most of the schools, a majority of the pupils will come from Catholic backgrounds.

Teachers in Jesuit schools come from a wide range of religious and philosophical backgrounds. Many will be committed Catholics or belong to other Christian churches, while others will have a Catholic or Christian background but have questions about their faith. Some will be from other religions. Others may have no particular religious belief. All have an important and valued part to play in the education of children and young people in Jesuit schools.





# Working in a Jesuit School

## Expectations of teachers in Jesuit schools

If you join the staff of a Jesuit school, you will be joining a strong Christian community with a sense of purpose. Its underlying values of respect for the individual and giving each person every opportunity to develop their talents and grow as a person will be accorded to you as much as to everyone else. Generosity is a hallmark of Jesuit schools, both in what is expected from staff and as an attitude encouraged and fostered in the pupils.

Many of the expectations of your work as a teacher in a Jesuit school will be exactly the same expectations any good school would have. These include being competent and enthusiastic in your teaching, being interested in and committed to the pastoral care and personal development of your pupils, and playing an active role in the wider life of the school.

In a Jesuit school there will also be expectations that you will support the school's Jesuit character, including its prayer and worship, its historical and spiritual traditions, its emphasis on growth in faith and the service of others, its values of personal responsibility, tolerance and justice, and its promotion of intellectual enquiry and striving for excellence.

## Values, personal opinions and conscience

Parents who send their children to Jesuit schools do so in the expectation that the teaching, the character of the school, and the values and opinions communicated to their children will accord with their own Catholic faith.



The Catholic Church has a long tradition of teaching on ethical and social issues as well as its theological beliefs. The Church tries to balance clear teaching, on sometimes controversial issues, with the practical pastoral care of individuals who may find that teaching difficult to live up to. This is no different in a Catholic school community. We strive for the highest standards, informed by Catholic moral and social teaching, and are committed to compassion, reconciliation and the building up of a community built on love and mutual respect.

The example of your life as a teacher is important. Just as teachers are expected professionally to set a good example to their pupils, so teachers in Catholic schools are expected to give good public example which is consistent with the values of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

No teacher in a Jesuit school is asked to speak or act against his or her conscience. The Catholic Church explicitly teaches that conscience, informed by appropriate study, is the highest authority for the individual. However, if you choose to work in a Catholic school, there is an expectation that you will do nothing to undermine the Catholic faith and practice that is the school's *raison d'être* and way of life.

Of course, we recognise that many people will have different views on a range of topics. Catholics themselves hold views that sometimes do not accord with the Church's official teaching. In a Catholic school we are responsible for forming children and young adults. We try to do so in a way that imparts the religious and moral views of their parents, and of the Church, and at the same time encourages increasing independence in forming and expressing their own views. In practice, we are confident you will find Jesuit schools are open and tolerant places. They clearly articulate the tradition of beliefs and values of Catholic Christianity but do not seek to indoctrinate or foist unwelcome views on impressionable young people.

## Further information

The identity and mission of Jesuit schools is set out in a document called *The Characteristics of Jesuit Education* which is available on the Jesuit Institute website. Each school will have its own mission statement which sets out how it realizes its own identity and mission as a Jesuit school in its particular circumstances and for its pupils and community.