

April 2024

Dear Colleague,

Teacher of History

Thank you for your interest in this post. We are seeking a highly talented teacher of history who can make a significant contribution to the future development of the subject. History is a vibrant and highly successful curriculum area, with great facilities and a superb team ethic amongst staff and pupils.

Over the years History has been our most popular options subject at GCSE and take up at A-level is also strong. There is a very positive vibe about the subject—it is taught in a lively and imaginative way and the department's extra-curricular offer is rich. At A-level we also offer politics and the willingness to teach this would be an advantage.

The department has its own suite of five modern classrooms, one of which is an equipped computer lab. Balcarras is an excellent place to teach. We have friendly staff, pupils who are keen to learn and parents who are very supportive of the school. We work in attractive buildings, superbly equipped, on a beautiful site. The accommodation for History is excellent with modern classrooms and a computer lab.

I hope that having read all of the details and perused our website you will be keen to apply. Please submit your application by **Monday 29th April 2024, 9am**. Interviews will take place week beginning 6th May 2024. The post is open to candidates who will be Early Career Teachers or more experienced colleagues.

I look forward very much to hearing from you.



Headteacher

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

The history department comprises an enthusiastic team of four full-time teachers. Additionally, our headteacher, Mr. Burke, and our Head of Sixth Form, Mr. Leatherbarrow, also contribute to the teaching within the department. Our primary mission is to make history accessible and interesting to all young people, enabling their success in school and fostering continued engagement with history beyond formal education. We employ diverse teaching methods and pride ourselves on cultivating a positive ethos within the department. Emphasis is also placed on extracurricular activities to enrich the subject experience.

Situated in our dedicated suite of five classrooms, including a computer room, all members of the department have easy access to ICT facilities. One classroom also serves as a sixth-form seminar room. We take pride in our stimulating working environment and have consistently won accolades, including the school display competition, for our informative and effective displays.

At Key Stage 3, our curriculum explores British History chronologically from the Anglo-Saxons to the mid-20th century, alongside comparative international modules. Our approach aims to make the subject enjoyable and challenging, fostering student engagement and building skills in preparation for GCSE and beyond. We offer a variety of extracurricular activities across all three-year groups, including trips, guest speakers, and a modelling club.

Recruitment for GCSE history is strong, following the AQA specification. We study Germany 1890-1945 and the Cold War 1945-1972 in Paper 1, while Paper 2 features a thematic course on British history from 790AD to the present day, exploring migration and the development of empire. Paper 2 also includes a depth study on Restoration England 1660-1685. To enhance learning, we organise a six-day study trip to Berlin in Year 10 as part of the 20th-century course.

At A level, we have a large cohort with three A level classes in Year 12, alongside one politics class. Students follow the AQA course, which includes one component on British history 1783-1885 and another on American history 1945-1980. Additionally, there is a coursework component offering a range of topics. As part of the A level course, we run a bi-annual trip to New York with the RE department. We also teach the Edexcel Government and Politics course, covering the British political system and political ideologies, with two classes in both Year 12 and Year 13.

We are seeking a highly motivated colleague who will make a strong contribution to our already successful team. Above all, we are looking for an excellent classroom practitioner with a passion for history, keen to engage in all activities we offer and build on the already successful reputation of the department within a fast-paced but rewarding school environment.

Michael Stoker
Head of History & Politics
April 2024