



Colyton  
Grammar  
School

Est. 1546

# Working at Colyton Grammar School

## Details of the post of Teacher of History Full Time

The purpose of this booklet is to provide background details of the post together with information about the school.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



## **TEACHER OF HISTORY**

### **Full time, Permanent**

#### **The Post**

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The successful candidate will contribute to teaching History at Key Stage 3 and to at least GCSE and with the potential to also teach Key Stage 5.

The candidate should have:

- Confident subject knowledge and a palpable love of History;
- Excellent teaching skills and a track record of engagement with the latest evidence-based pedagogical research;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
- A strong commitment to the broader life of the school community, including providing a rich variety of subject-related super-curricular opportunities for students;
- A concern to promote high student achievement and outcomes;
- A commitment to being a reflective practitioner and to further professional development.
- Competent computing skills. All students at Colyton are issued with their own personal computing device, which can be utilised in lessons in a manner that the department feels will most effectively enhance teaching and learning in their subject area.
- The opportunity to also teach Latin may be available to a suitable candidate.

The post is suitable for teachers of all ages and experience, including those starting out on their teaching careers. The successful candidate will be a motivational classroom practitioner who possesses clear enthusiasm for the subject. He or she will be excited by the opportunity to teach more able students who want to learn and who strive to achieve the highest possible academic outcomes.

#### **Selection Arrangements**

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**Closing Date: 30<sup>th</sup> March 12pm**

**Interviews: w/b 17<sup>th</sup> April**

An application should be made via TES.com

Candidates are welcome to ring the Headteacher to discuss the post informally.

## The School

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Colyton Grammar School is one of the country's leading co-educational selective schools. We exist to help able students from all backgrounds achieve beyond what they might have thought possible, supporting them to do so with a culture of scholarship, humility and service.

The school is one of only a small number of secondary schools to have been judged Outstanding in five successive inspections, most recently in March 2020, and is consistently amongst the top 10% of schools nationally for attainment, and for the past two years of validated data has been ranked amongst the top 1% for progress at GCSE.

However, examination outcomes form just a part of the school's ambition for our students. We aim to empower them to develop as individuals through a broad range of experiences and achievements, laying the strongest foundations for happiness and success throughout their lives. We develop independent learners who are motivated by intellectual satisfaction, a commitment to continual improvement, and a sense of service to others, as much as by academic achievement.

We recognise the high ability of our students and are highly aspirational on their behalf. Our curriculum and teaching is based on the principle of 'high challenge; high support': we strive to ensure students are stretched to develop to their full potential, whilst supporting every student to help them rise to this challenge.

Central to our philosophy is the importance of classroom relationships. These are based on mutual trust and respect, creating a supportive, caring learning environment, and providing the conditions for exceptional teaching and learning. Staff have exceptional subject knowledge and students are inspired by their enthusiasm, within and beyond the curriculum. The school provides a very broad range of co-curricular opportunities, which develop life-long skills and interests, as well as social and personal skills.

Staff create learning opportunities which are interesting and engaging. Staff are exceptionally committed, reflecting a rewarding teaching environment, with a strong collegiate atmosphere, based in a sense of community, collaboration and mutual support.

The school prides itself on its engagement with pedagogical research and development, and is a leading figure working to support other schools in the area, most prominently as a Teaching School Hub, leading professional development and subject networks throughout Devon. We attach great importance to teachers' professional growth. Our professional development programme, described as a model of good practice by Ofsted, is tied to our core belief that we work hard, with humility, so that we and others can grow as people, professionals and scholars. To support this we provide a generous, bespoke programme of coaching and professional learning opportunities for staff, underpinned by a philosophy of evidence-based learning. A supportive, reflective and outward-looking approach ensures that we can all be even greater, with no limits on what we can achieve.

## About the Department

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History is a thriving and successful subject at Colyton that places student engagement, challenge and evidence-based learning at the heart of its ethos. The department prides itself on offering a varied programme of study that attempts to imbue in students a life-long love for the discipline. The department is currently staffed by a range of teachers at different levels of the school organisation. It is a warm, friendly and good-humoured team that embraces fresh ideas and perspectives and that faces new challenges with positivity and solidarity. The culture of the department mirrors that of the wider school; continuously looking to improve and striving to be the best that it can be.

Standards in History are very high and the subject is a popular option at both GCSE and A Level. In 2019, 90% of History A Level students secured an A\* or A grade outcome. Similarly, in 2018, 97% of students achieved grades 7-9 for their History GCSE. There is a high take-up with four to five GCSE classes in each year and two A-Level classes for both sixth form year groups.

### THE SEVEN-YEAR HISTORY AND POLITICS CURRICULUM

#### The Early Years (Years 7 and 8)

During the course of a **two-year** Key Stage 3, students journey through the period between the Battle of Hastings and the close of the 20th century, exploring topics such as the Norman Conquest, the Slave Trade, the French Revolution, the US Civil War and Civil Rights Movement, the First World War and Nazi Germany.

#### The Middle Years (Years 9-11)

At GCSE, the department follows *Edexcel's* new 1-9 GCSE History syllabus and have selected the following modules for study across the **three-year** programme:

- **Paper 1:** (a) Treatment on the British Sector of the Western Front, 1914-18 and (b) Medicine in Britain, c1250-Present
- **Paper 2:** (a) The American West, c1835-95 and (b) Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88
- **Paper 3:** Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917-41

#### The Senior Years (12-13)

**A-Level History:** The department follows AQA's A-Level History syllabus and have selected the following modules for study across the **two-year** programme:

- **Component 1:** Germany 1871-1991, The Quest for Political Stability
- **Component 2:** The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007
- **Component 3:** The NEA

**A-Level Politics:** The department follows *Edexcel's* A-Level Government and Politics syllabus and have selected the following modules for study across the **two-year** programme:

- **Component 1:** UK Politics and Core Political Ideas
- **Component 2:** UK Government and Other Political Ideologies (Nationalism)
- **Component 3:** Comparative Politics – Government and Politics of the USA

## The Super-curricular Programme

Prior to the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the History and Politics Department has previously offered a wide variety of enrichment opportunities to students across the seven-year curriculum. Rebuilding this super-curricular programme will continue to be a priority for the department in the academic year 2022-23. Activities carried out in the past have included:

- A Year 7 site study of Totnes town and Castle;
- A Year 8 site visit to Bovington Tank museum;
- A Year 10 residential trip to Belgium which explores the challenges of delivering medical treatment on the Western front;
- A Year 12 site visit to the UK Parliament and the Supreme Court;
- A Year 13 residential visit to Berlin;
- Whole-school enrichment events such as mock general elections;
- Student leadership opportunities such as mentoring younger students in the school, facilitating the lower years History Club and providing primary outreach;
- Entering teams for national competitions, including the Bar Mock Trial, the European Youth Parliament and the PSA Video Competition;
- Inviting in a range of external speakers and exploiting online opportunities such as *Virtually University* and “Meet a Supreme Court Judge”;
- Promoting and facilitating student entries to university essay competitions;
- A “History at University” study group for senior students;
- Forging strong links with local organisations such as the Colyton Heritage Centre, Seaton Tramway and the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in order to provide relevant career-related experiences for our students.

## Background

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- The school was founded in 1546 by the Feoffees of Colyton and moved to its present site in 1929.
- The school is served by a wide rural area with students being drawn from more than 50 primary schools. There are five forms of entry. Students arriving at Colyton have typically achieved good Level 5 or better in primary school.
- The Lower Years Programme in Years 7 & 8 develops in students the foundational knowledge, the values and the habits of learning required for future success.
- The Middle Years Programme in Years 9, 10 & 11 encompasses eleven GCSEs alongside a range of additional components in the form of enrichment.
- Almost all students continue into the Sixth Form, where they typically study three A-Levels, alongside the Extended Project. Typically, about 98% continue on to university, with 15% gaining Oxbridge places. Students also complete a

wide range of co-curricular, leadership and service opportunities as part of the Colyton Baccalaureate qualification.

- The school occupies an exceptionally attractive site. In the last decade there has been significant capital development in all areas of the school including new classrooms, a student wellbeing centre and a new drama studio.
- In addition, the school has invested heavily in a highly successful digital learning strategy. All students and staff are provided with their own devices and a blended learning approach is fully established.
- The school has a national reputation for its work with more able students and in especially with its work with more able disadvantaged students.
- Details of the last Ofsted report are available on the school website: [www.colytongrammar.com](http://www.colytongrammar.com)

## The Benefits of Teaching at CGS

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- Teach highly able, intellectually curious, engaged students.
- Time to focus on your teaching: no formal graded lesson observations or strict marking policies; streamlined reporting; staff rarely used for cover.
- Excellent professional development opportunities, including through the Colyton Teaching School Hub, instructional coaching, NPQs.
- Support your teaching and assessment through a fully established blended learning approach: all staff and students are provided with a laptop.
- Work in a beautiful, well-maintained environment, close to coast and countryside.

## Professional Development

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Colyton's recent designation as a Teaching School Hub means that the school can provide the successful candidate with access to a wide range of further career development opportunities. These are developed through:

- Our lead role as a Teaching School Hub in the *South West Institute for Teaching* Hub (SWIFT)
- Partnership with South West selective schools through the South West Academic Trust (SWAT);
- Strong links with Higher Education (Exeter University is a partner with the school supporting school-based research);
- A fully supported ECT programme, including induction and coaching;



- Continuing Professional Development to support responses to national and school-based priorities;
- Consultative planning structures;
- A culture that is rooted in seeking continuous improvement.

## **The Local Area**

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The school is situated in the village of Colyford in East Devon, part of the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and just one mile from the Jurassic Coast, a UNESCO world heritage site. The school draws its students from a wide area, stretching across East Devon, Somerset and Dorset. Many staff commute from Exeter, or the nearby towns of Sidmouth, Honiton and Axminster, which provide excellent gateways to country, coast and town.

There is a unanimous feeling among staff that the area is a wonderful place to bring up children.



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