



THE KING'S SCHOOL

OTTERY ST. MARY • DEVON • EX11 1RA • TEL: 01404 812982 • FAX: 01404 815685

Founded 1545 • Headteacher Mr Rob Gammon BSc Hons PGCE NPQH



April 2021

Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing an interest in the post of **temporary Teacher of History (maternity cover)** at The King's School.

The King's School was founded by Henry VIII in 1545 and therefore the school has a long and proud tradition of educating young people in Ottery St Mary and the surrounding area. The school has a strong reputation that is based on high academic performance and an inclusive ethos, ensuring that students of all backgrounds and abilities succeed. The school is an outstanding 11-18 comprehensive school (OfSTED 2011, 2014) with approximately 1100 students on roll and has been oversubscribed for many years. We have a thriving Sixth Form which continues to perform very well. In challenging financial times, we have maintained a broad curriculum offer pre- and post-16. This allows students to select subjects that they are passionate about and offers a wide range of opportunities for students and staff. We have also continued to invest in the school site with approximately £2 million of capital projects over the last 5 years.

The experiences of our students reflect our 'Achievement for All' ethos. Students are taught in mixed ability classes in all subject areas (except mathematics) and we believe that this approach supports the development of academic success as well as the strong sense of community and mutual support that is present in the school. We have a highly effective Skills for Learning team that works alongside classroom teachers, ensuring that those students with additional learning needs are well catered for. We provide extension opportunities for the most able students and continue to see many of our students progressing to the best universities and apprenticeships in the UK. Students of all abilities at the school make sustained learning gains during their time with us.

Academic outcomes only give a narrow view of the success of a school. Therefore, The King's School places a strong emphasis on personal, as well as academic, outcomes. We have strong pastoral care and a wide range of enrichment opportunities available to all students. The house system is an integral part of school life and is reflected in our smart uniform. Students and staff are very proud of their house associations and this provides a platform for a wide range of house competitions and leadership opportunities. The legacy of our sports college designation means that we also have a very strong physical education and school sports offer that caters for students from across the ability range. We run the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and have a highly successful Ten Tors programme, which is facilitated by a team of committed staff and volunteers. We continue to maintain additional opportunities including school productions, STEM activities, dance performances and an Arts and Technology Evening to name but a few. Student voice is also strong at the school and the School Parliament and Prefects play a very active part in school life.

The school converted to an academy in April 2011 but we still maintain very strong relationships with our local primary and secondary schools. We continue to work alongside local teaching school alliances and multi-academy trusts. We have a number of staff who are actively engaged in supporting other schools in their role as Specialist Leaders in Education, including in PE, PSHE, Science, and Design and Technology.

This post arises due to the current Head of Department going on maternity leave; it is for one term only (September to the end of December). The leadership responsibility of the current Head of Department is to be taken on by another member of the history team during the maternity leave and therefore this post is a 0.9-1.0 FTE teaching post with no additional leadership responsibility. We follow Edexcel History at GCSE and AQA History at A Level. History is taught in fully mixed ability classes, as are all subjects in the school except mathematics, therefore the ability to differentiate effectively is essential. Our A Level and GCSE

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results are consistently strong with 93% of students achieving A*-C at A Level in 2018 and an average of 75% achieving a Grade 4+ at GCSE in the last 3 years. These outcomes place the department in the top 25% of schools nationally for attainment and progress at Key Stage 4. Our lower attaining and SEN students demonstrate good progress in History; making History accessible to all is something that is very important to us.

The number of students opting for GCSE and A Level History is consistently strong and increasing year-on-year, reflecting the strength of teaching and the profile of the subject in the school.

The History department works extremely well together, sharing good practice with colleagues in a supportive and creative environment. Our aim is to inspire students and engage them, developing a long-term fascination in History. Our History teachers are not afraid to take risks so we are looking for someone who can be creative, dynamic, and is able to communicate their passion for History to the whole range of students. We are looking for a talented classroom practitioner who can contribute to GCSE and possibly A Level, a team player who can communicate an enthusiasm and depth of subject knowledge using a student-centred approach. The candidate should also be organised, confident in assessment for learning and – above all – someone who will form positive relationships with the students they teach. Very importantly, we wish to appoint someone who works well in a team, is flexible, adaptable and can work under pressure without losing their all-important sense of humour.

We have lively and enthusiastic staff, a number of whom have worked at The King's School for many years. We believe firmly that the most important asset of the school is its staff and we are keen to offer them opportunities to develop. The King's School is in a very fortunate position in that it is located in a beautiful part of the country. It has an excellent reputation in the area and consequently is always heavily oversubscribed for student places. We are very proud of our strong examination results and outstanding OfSTED judgment but are equally proud of the caring, supportive and friendly ethos that exists here whether you are student or member of staff.

We hope you find this information helpful but if you would like further information or you wish to visit the school in advance of an application please contact Ms Pickering (recruitment@thekings.devon.sch.uk).

Finally, thank you once again for showing an interest in this post. The King's School is a very special place to study and work. As a parent of three children educated at the school, and someone who lives in the community, I can talk from personal experience of the impact that this school has on the lives of young people. We have very hardworking and supportive staff who enjoy being part of this community and I hope that you will take the time to consider if this school is the right place for you. I wish you well in your application.

Yours sincerely

Mr R J Gammon
Headteacher