THE KING'S SCHOOL
OTTERY ST MARY • DEVON • EX11 1RA • TEL 01404 812982
Founded 1545 Headteacher: Mr Rob Gammon BSc Hons PGCE NPQH

March 2026

Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing an interest in the position of Teacher of Physical Education (PE) 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 11-18 comprehensive school with approximately 1100 students on roll; parents are overwhelming positive about all aspects of the school's provision and consequently we have been oversubscribed for many years. We have a thriving Sixth Form which continues to perform very well. We have a broad curriculum offer pre- and post-16; this allows students to select subjects they are passionate about and offers a wide range of opportunities for students and staff. There is a rolling programme of investment in the school site and, as a result, we have a well-resourced and pleasant environment for the whole school community to enjoy.

The experiences of our students reflect our core purpose of 'Achievement for All'. 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 provide extension opportunities for the most able students and continue to see many of them progressing to the best universities and apprenticeships in the UK. We also have a Skills for Learning team that works alongside classroom teachers, ensuring that those students with additional learning needs are well catered for. Students of all abilities and backgrounds at the school make strong progress during their time with us.

Exam results 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 provide outstanding pastoral care, and a wide range of enrichment opportunities are 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. We have a very strong extra-curricular offer which includes numerous trips and visits, school productions, STEM activities, dance performances and sporting activities 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 a single academy trust in 2011 and we maintain very strong relationships with our local primary and secondary schools. We continue to work in partnership with others to ensure that students are well supported, and staff have access to high-quality professional development. As a result, there are a number of staff who are actively engaged in supporting other schools, training teachers, and undertaking nationally accredited CPD such as those offered on the NPQ programmes. We also have an exciting INSET programme which is based around the school's core purpose and draws on student voice, the latest evidence, and the sharing of good practice.

The King's School has maintained a strong reputation for the delivery of high-quality Physical Education (PE) for a number of years. The legacy of our designation as a Specialist Sports College in 2004 is reflected in the breadth of opportunity enjoyed by the students. The PE department delivers across the whole of Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 with 2 hours of high-quality PE per week. Students at Key Stage 5 also have a core PE entitlement, as well as the opportunity to take a broad range of sport-related qualifications. In addition to the core PE offer, students can take both PE and Dance to GCSE and then to A Level; we have a track record of academic success in these areas. We also offer a broad range of additional qualifications, including Sports Leadership Awards at Level 2, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award. At Key Stage 4, students have, as part of their core entitlement, the opportunity to experience a broader range of activities.

We offer a wide range of sport-related extra-curricular clubs and teams. Although our focus is very much based on students developing a healthy and active lifestyle, we aim to enthuse and engage students in sport in its widest sense. The Head of PE is supported by five other teaching staff, a PE Technician and administrative support staff. There is a specialist PE teacher dedicated to supporting our partner primary schools, organising festivals and providing professional development for colleagues.

We were delighted that our school gained School Games Gold Mark status for the eighth consecutive academic year 2024-2025. The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust, to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. As a department, we are very clear on the vital contribution Physical Education, school sport and physical activity makes to the whole child.

The ability to teach PE to GCSE and A Level is desirable, but not essential. The successful candidate will demonstrate a commitment to drive extra-curricular opportunities in Physical Education and school sport; please state your specialisms within PE on your application form. Very importantly, we wish to appoint someone who works well in a team, has the ability to motivate students, 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. Staff are extremely positive about the support we provide for their workload and well-being. The King's School is in a very fortunate position in that it is located in a beautiful part of the country. Many of our staff chose to send their children to the school for their education and school's admission oversubscription criteria supports this.

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 Mrs. Pocock (recruitment@thekings.devon.sch.uk). We anticipate interviews taking place the week commencing Tuesday 5th May 2026. When applying for the role, it is important that you refer to the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and the DBS Disclosure Policy, which can be found on our website (About Us – Policy Documents).

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