



QUEEN MARY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Academic in purpose - Generous in approach - Enterprising in spirit - International in outlook



Information Pack

Teacher of Psychology

Required from September 2025

Part-Time 0.4 (more hours may be available subject to A Level student numbers increasing or for a candidate that can offer an additional subject)

Permanent

Queen Mary's Grammar School
Sutton Road,
Walsall,
WS1 2PG

01922 720696



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Welcome



Queen Mary's Grammar School was founded in 1554 by Mary Tudor. We have been shaped by our past and are proud of our traditions, but we are also confident of an exciting future as we help to shape the new educational landscape with our partners in the Mercian Trust.

Queen Mary's is an academically selective school. It is our aim to support pupils to achieve their full academic potential. We value the life of the mind and want to pass on a love of learning.

Outside the classroom, we offer a range of life-enriching opportunities: time at our Field Centre in Wales; membership of our thriving Combined Cadet Force; individual and team sports; foreign exchanges and travel; participation in music, debating and public speaking and many other activities. We believe that achievement and enjoyment go hand in hand.

We equip our pupils to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Most choose to go on to higher education. Through partnership between School, pupil and parents, we aim for the examination success that will open doors to the very best universities and international employers. It is our mission to attain excellence in all that we do.

Our House system celebrates the four pillars of school life at Queen Mary's: an academic focus, an international ethos, an enterprising spirit and a sense of community. We enjoy our social, cultural and ethnic diversity and recognise our many privileges. We are keen to share what we have - experience, expertise, enthusiasm - both with those who live on our doorstep and those from further afield.

To do so is very much in the spirit of our motto *quas dederis solas semper habebis opes*: it is what you give that you will keep as eternal riches.

Richard Langton

Headmaster

About Us

Queen Mary's Grammar School is an invigorating and rewarding place to work: the pupils are intelligent and committed to study; the staff are friendly and forward looking. It is more than just a place of work – it is a thriving community, proud of its past and confident of its future. In March 2023, it was recognised as 'Outstanding' in all areas by Ofsted.

There are currently almost 1400 pupils on roll, including over 480 in the Sixth Form. The School has an outstanding academic record and regularly features at the upper end of the national league tables. In 2024, 65% of GCSE grades were 7-9 (A*/A) and 66% of A Level grades were A*, A or B. We are especially proud of our value-added scores, which regularly place us among the top schools in the country for progress. We do not rest on our laurels, but encourage all our pupils to realise their full potential.

In June 2011, the School converted to Academy status and we have undertaken a series of exciting building projects since then, including a new Sixth Form Centre, science labs and a humanities wing, music and PE refurbishments, extensions to existing English and maths classrooms, as well as a new dining room and reception. We were a founding member of the Mercian Multi Academy Trust (along with five other schools) in January 2018. Over the past few years, we completed projects to add additional capacity through the building of extra science rooms, a humanities block and a sixth form study annexe.

The School encourages an enterprising and international outlook: trips, expeditions and exchanges have gone all over the world in recent years, as well as a wide range of vibrant and formative educational visits and experiences closer to home such as theatre visits, visiting speakers and the mental health ambassadors programme. We are proud to appear in Ross Morrison McGill's recent book *Just Great Teaching*, showcasing our mental health work.

We want our pupils to lead happy and fulfilled lives. Learning here is not just about passing exams, but about enjoying the life of the mind. We also encourage all our pupils to take part in a wide range of enrichment activities in music, sport, the Combined Cadet Force and at our Field Centre on the Afon Mawddach in Southern Snowdonia. We have been named in the Top 100 cricket schools by the *Cricketer Magazine* for the second year in succession.

Our pupils come from diverse backgrounds, but they all thrive on the sense of support, encouragement and care that characterises Queen Mary's.

Benefits of working at Queen Mary's Grammar School

- teach gifted and intelligent students who have a real motivation to succeed
- a thriving and expanding school that achieves examination success, particularly at GCSE level
- professional autonomy in the classroom – you are encouraged to teach in a style that suits you and your subject
- a Headmaster and Senior Leadership Team that operate an open-door policy to support colleagues personally as well as professionally
- we take our mental health seriously, considering workload and staff wellbeing
- a dedicated induction programme for new staff and ECTs to ensure you are supported at whatever stage of your career you join us
- opportunities to play a role in the wider life of the school, including involvement in the CCF, music, debating, drama, coaching of sports teams and other trips and opportunities, such as visits to Farchynys (our Welsh field centre)
- career progression – many of our current middle and senior leaders are “home-grown” promotions from within.

Find out more

You can find out more about our school at <http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk>.

For a flavour of daily life at QM follow us on Twitter at @QMGS1554.

Please contact Simran Sahota (Executive Assistant) if you would like to discuss the role further via email; s.sahota@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk

The Department

Psychology is probably the most important subject a young person can study. Straddling, sometimes uneasily, the space between Humanities and Science, at QMGS we firmly put Psychology in the field of Social Science. Right now, issues of mental ill health, socialisation, isolation and even questions about culture, identity and relationships are all at the forefront of thinking and this is especially the case in Education.

At QMGS, in the Department of Psychology, we look beyond the syllabus to take seriously our role in educating young people in a broad and interesting curriculum that equips them not just for an examination, but for a life of the mind. Like our sister subject, Philosophy, we prepare them for, and take them on, a thrilling journey of discovery, embedded in the scientific method, to a destination marked by self-determination, academic excellence and meaningful utility.

GCSE Psychology has been a popular option choice for our Year 10 and 11 pupils, since its very recent introduction in 2022. Our curriculum frequently adopts a “flipped learning” approach and is designed to inspire and engage by providing a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study which develops an understanding of the ideas and values that characterise ‘self’ and others. We aim to equip pupils with psychological literacy that enables them to apply knowledge and skills in everyday life, including making informed decisions about further study and career choices. It builds substantially on concepts and ideas learned in KS3 RPE and prepares students for academic study at A Level and beyond. It uses scientific methods, intellectual rigour and mathematical analysis in order to provide an empirical and theoretical insight into human behaviour, both of the typical kind and of the divergent, deviant or disturbing kind.

Year 12 is a time of wonder, and challenge. The intention here is to embed academic skills and to introduce Psychology in all its facets to see how it touches on so many aspects of life. In Year 13 the watchword is consolidation. Using skills they have acquired, we expect our pupils now, in revisiting many topics and expanding their horizons to push the boundaries of many others, to develop links between topics and disciplines and skills to become Psychologists, not just teenagers with a Psychology A Level under their belt.

The successful candidate will embrace the possibilities of an environment where we want our pupils to flourish, and will not be enslaved to the textbook. You will feel the vigour of your subject, unreduced to assessment objectives and mark schemes, and you will relish the creative opportunities that can come alive when we realise the potentials of untapped minds, whose secrets are gradually uncovered through the careful practice of our art. And that's the thing about teaching Psychology, is it not? An unrivalled, untrammelled, uncompromising union of the paedagogical arts and the mysterious, fertile science of the mind.

The Role

Job Title:	Teacher of Psychology
Start Date	September 2025
Grade / Salary:	MPR/UPS
Contract	Part-Time (0.4) Permanent. (more hours may be available subject to A Level student numbers increasing or for a candidate that can offer an additional subject)

The successful candidate will:

- be able to teach Psychology to GCSE and A Level
- plan and teach challenging and differentiated lessons which enable high levels of progress.
- make a contribution to and follow the department's curriculum, in line with the broader ethos of the school
- maintain discipline in lessons to ensure that learning can take place.
- use a diverse range of teaching strategies and ICT to engage students and to deepen understanding.
- mark students' assessments, giving constructive feedback to aid improved performance, and monitor their progress.
- work alongside colleagues and students in mentoring and intervention sessions.
- use relevant student data to help pupils to achieve their full potential.
- communicate regularly with the Head of Department about pupil performance and achievement.
- make an active contribution to the co-curricular life of the school.

Person Specification:

- well-qualified graduate, with a specialism in Psychology
- hold, or be working towards, a Postgraduate Certificate of Education or equivalent teaching qualification in secondary education.
- passionate about the academic rigour of their specialist subject and all that it entails.
- committed to diversity and representation in teaching and learning.
- a genuine team-player; resilient and blessed with a sense of humour.
- ability to see the bigger picture and work accordingly.
- positive and enthusiastic in approach.
- excellent oral and written communication skills.
- effective ICT skills.
- commitment to support the Head of Department and the team.
- willing to be involved in the pastoral life of the school and act in the role of Form Tutor.
- commitment to the wider ethos of the school and a willingness to contribute to enrichment activities

Please be aware that candidates submitting generic applications, which make scant or no reference to the school, will not be shortlisted.

Queen Mary's Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and all applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service. Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment Policies can be found on our website.

The Mercian Trust

Queen Mary's Grammar School is a Founder Academy of the Mercian Multi-Academy Trust. According to the National Schools Commissioner, Sir David Carter, MATs exist:

- to secure school improvement and develop people
- to encourage good governance and proper risk management
- to secure the financial health of all its academies.

We sign up to those ambitions. In our MAT, the Mercian Trust, we choose to pursue life to the full in the business of education.

We are convinced that we are stronger together. The Mercian Trust is already helping to shape the educational landscape in exciting ways. We welcome you to be part of that story.

The members of The Mercian Trust are: Aldridge School, The Ladder School, Queen Mary's Grammar School, Queen Mary's High School, Shire Oak Academy, Walsall Studio School, Q3 Langley, Q3 Great Barr, Q3 Tipton

Our schools prepare pupils to live life to the full by equipping them to realise their full potential as learners; to thrive in the world of work; and to make a positive contribution to the local, national and international community.

The Mercian Trust respects the autonomy of its member schools but, through collaboration, it will foster strengths greater than the sum of its parts. Put simply, the Trust provides a framework for sharing expertise, enthusiasm and experience.

Location

Queen Mary's Grammar School
Sutton Road
Walsall
West Midlands
WS1 2PG

Tel: 01922 720696
Fax: 01922 725932

Queen Mary's Grammar School is located on the Sutton Road, in the leafy south of the town and close to the centre of Walsall. Travel to the school is very convenient, being approximately 10 minutes' drive from both junctions 7 and 9 of the M6.

There are good bus links from Birmingham to Walsall (with the 51 and X51 buses) and there is a direct train route to Birmingham from nearby stations in the town centre, Bescot Stadium and Tamebridge Parkway.

The close proximity of Walsall, Wolverhampton and Birmingham City Centre provides excellent access to shopping, leisure facilities, museums, cinemas and a wide range of nightlife.

House prices in Walsall are also very competitive compared to the Midlands as a whole and there is a range of good local primary schools and nurseries for those with young families seeking to move close to Queen Mary's.

You are very welcome to visit the school. Please contact Simran Sahota, s.sahota@gmgs.merciantrust.org.uk to arrange a visit.