



Sheldon School
Chippenham

Candidate Information



Teacher of Psychology

Closing Date: 17th June 2021

Interview Date: TBC

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Cover Letter

June 2021

Dear Colleague,

FULL-TIME TEACHER OF PSYCHOLOGY

PERMANENT

REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Thank you for your interest in this full-time, permanent position which arises due to an external promotion of the postholder. The post will start in September 2021, or for current teachers January 2022. We are seeking to appoint a suitably qualified, enthusiastic and committed teacher, who is able and willing to teach Psychology at A-Level. The ability to teach Criminology or Sociology is desirable. We are committed to excellence of achievement and try to ensure that pupils reach their full potential at whatever level they are working. Sheldon's policy, therefore, is always to appoint the most suitable person for the post and applications are welcome from both experienced and newly qualified teachers. In addition to working as part of the Humanities faculty, the successful candidate is also likely to be a form tutor.

Sheldon is a high-achieving school with a strong record of success. You would be joining a very hardworking and supportive faculty which has a strong collegiate atmosphere. We offer a full programme of induction and support to all colleagues who join us and there is a continual focus on staff development and wellbeing, both of which rated very highly in the most recent external survey. Staff morale, in what are challenging educational times, is high, borne out of there being a real sense of community. We work hard, but the effort is worth it; the students certainly appreciate it and you will have plenty of fulfilment.

I personally believe that Sheldon is a great school. I have worked in six schools in total and am continually impressed by the positivity of the staff and the atmosphere around the school that is overwhelmingly happy and shows our students to be enjoying their learning in a thriving environment. It's simply a pleasure to come to work each day and I think you will find staff will say the same to you were you to ask them. We're obviously working through some interesting times, but even now the camaraderie between staff is excellent and the engagement between staff and students very positive.

Further details concerning the faculty and the school are enclosed from Amy Goldsmith, Head of Humanities Faculty, together with an application form. In addition, we have included other information to outline the all-round offer, but please also take the time to look at what happens in the school day-to-day by visiting our website. I hope that, having read the information, you will be keen to apply.

The successful candidate will be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils in the school. The posts will be dependent on a successful enhanced DBS check.

Please complete the application form and return it with a supporting letter, (no more than two sides of A4 please), by post or email to hr@sheldonschool.co.uk. Closing date for applications is **17th June 2021 (12 noon)**.

Hardenhuish Lane, Chippenham, Wilts. SN14 6HJ

Headteacher: Neil Spurdell BSc (Hons)

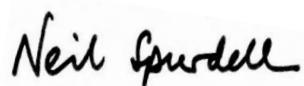
Tel: 01249 766020 **Fax:** 01249 766030

Email: admin@sheldonschool.co.uk **Web:** www.sheldonschool.co.uk



We hope to interview by the end of June, so if you have heard nothing by this date, please assume you have been unsuccessful on this occasion. If this proves to be the case, thank you for your interest in Sheldon School and best wishes for future career.

Yours faithfully,



Neil Spurdell
Headteacher

Humanities Faculty

The faculty has the following aims it wishes to achieve:

1. To foster an appreciation of people and the world they have created - past, present and future.
2. To develop communication and intellectual skills.
3. To encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own learning.
4. To develop an awareness of the environment and how we must respect it.
5. To encourage an awareness that we live in a multi-cultural world and that each individual has the right to equal opportunities to live a happy, successful life.

The teaching staff currently consists of 14 - ten full-time, two part-time and two assistant heads. The subject areas which come under the responsibility of the Head of Faculty are:

Geography & History	KS3, GCSE and AS/A-Level
Psychology	AS/A-Level
Sociology	AS/A-Level
Government & Politics	AS/A-Level
Criminology	Level 3

The specifications taught for external examination are:

Geography:	GCSE	AQA
	AS/A-Level	AQA
History:	GCSE	EDEXCEL
	AS/A-Level	AQA
Psychology:	AS/A-Level	AQA
Sociology:	AS/A-Level	AQA
Government & Politics:	AS/A-Level	EDEXCEL
Criminology:	Level 3	WJEC

The teaching accommodation consists of 11 classrooms. Resources are stored separately for the respective subjects. There is also an ICT suite with 10 PCs. We have access to the school's networked computer facilities, including two banks of portable laptops and two banks of iPads, which are stored in our area. There is also a library of teaching materials available on the school system, using Stream and ClickView.

Students are taught in mixed-ability groups at KS3. In the upper school, most students take either Geography or History and are taught in mixed ability groups for each subject. Many students currently study both subjects. This is a reflection of their continued popularity. A variety of teaching strategies are employed, particularly those based on active learning. The faculty teaches using differentiated schemes of work. We fully subscribe to the principles of Assessment for Learning.

The Humanities results at both GCSE and A Level are strong. In 2019, 38% of History students and 30% of Geography students achieved 9-7 grades. 23% of A Level Humanities students achieved A*/A grades.

At Sheldon we believe that there are many obvious links between all of the Humanities subjects in terms of philosophy, with human experience at the centre of our studies. The construction of secure knowledge opens the opportunity to apply this experience to a range of contexts and helps our students understand their place in communities at different scales.



By acting as a single unit, the faculty can give its component subjects a powerful voice in forums to discuss whole-school issues and more efficient administration and staffing is made possible. Common policies are agreed on a range of issues and the faculty meets regularly to discuss and share ideas. In particular, the faculty has a common system of assessment and recording, which aims to inform pupils, parents and teaching staff and greatly assist the monitoring of an individual student's progress and the process of setting. Consumable resources are shared and many of the team teach both Geography and History in the lower school, though most of a member of staff's teaching commitment will usually be in his/her main specialist area.

Whilst the staff work together as a single unit, Geography, History, Psychology, Government and Politics, Sociology and Criminology enjoy a considerable degree of individual integrity, retaining their autonomy. The teachers of each subject meet on a regular basis and operate as individual teams within the faculty structure.

Amy Goldsmith
Head of Faculty

June 2021



Psychology

The course follows the AQA specification:

AS LEVEL –	Unit 1:	Memory and eyewitness testimony Attachments in infancy and the effects of day care Research methods in the context of cognitive and developmental psychology
	Unit 2:	Stress and stress management Abnormality and therapies Conformity and obedience
A2 LEVEL –	Unit 3:	Relationships Forensics Gender
	Unit 4:	Schizophrenia Psychology in action – media psychology Psychological research and the scientific method

The course is well resourced, with three teachers of psychology. Students have access to textbooks in school for both courses. Teachers also have access to a variety of A-Level texts, which support our syllabus, and we subscribe to “Psychology Review”. There are extensive interactive computer-based resources online for staff and students.

KS3 Humanities includes teaching of both Geography and History as separate subjects. Topics in Geography include: World Journey; Great Populations and Ocean Plastics. Topics in History include Medieval Britain, Tudors, the English Civil war and 19th and 20th centuries including the world wars.



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