



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



March/April 2023

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the position of Teacher of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics – 1 year full time fixed-term contract 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 1120 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. 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 hubs, multi-academy trusts and teacher training organisations. 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.

The Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE) Department is a vibrant place of learning that is highly valued by the school and students. The department has a student-centred approach in which students can explore their own beliefs and those of others in a safe and respectful environment. We are looking to appoint a teacher who can deliver RPE at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. An ability to contribute to the delivery of A Level Sociology is desirable. The RPE curriculum in Year 7 and Year 8 has been developed to ensure that students experience a broad curriculum, which covers all six major world religions, as well as a variety of religious and non-religious worldviews, such as Philosophy, Ethics and Sociology. The Year



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7 and Year 8 curriculum is guided by the Devon Agreed Syllabus. All students start GCSE AQA Specification A Religious Studies: Christianity and Islam in Year 9. In the Spring Term of Year 9, students decide whether they want to choose the *Short Course qualification* (which they sit at the end of Year 10) or the *Full Course qualification* (which they sit at the end of Year 11).

RPE is a popular Full Course subject. Year 10 Full Course students also undertake an AQA Foundation or Higher Project Qualification, completed by the end of Year 10. The RPE department offers A Level Religious Studies: Philosophy Ethics and Buddhism (OCR), which gives students a unique opportunity to study both Western and Eastern thinking. In addition, the department offers A Level Sociology (AQA), in which students learn about Education with Theories and Methods, Families and Households, and Crime and Deviance. This is a subject area that is becoming increasingly popular at A level.

It is essential that the successful candidate is passionate about RPE and has excellent subject knowledge. We are looking for an enthusiastic teacher who can help students to understand the relevance and importance of RPE in today's world and in their own lives. This post is suitable for an ECT who wishes to complete their induction in an outstanding school, or a more experienced teacher.

RPE is taught in mixed ability classes, so the successful candidate will need to be able to differentiate confidently, but also not be afraid to take risks and teach dynamic and creative lessons. You will need to be able to work collaboratively as part of a team and be willing to share new ideas and approaches to teaching and learning.

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 please contact Mrs. Pocock (recruitment@thekings.devon.sch.uk). If you wish to visit the school in advance of an application, we are offering a short tour at 13:00 on Wednesday 5th April. Please contact Mrs Pocock by 15:30 on Thursday 30th March to book a place. 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 Gammon

Headteacher