



January 2025

Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing an interest in the position of Teacher of Science 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 1110 students on roll and has 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 an award-winning 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 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 an academy 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



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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 Science Department has 12 teaching staff, with most based in their own laboratories; they have support from an excellent team of technicians. There is a science leadership team consisting of a Head of Science and two 2nd in Science posts. The modern science laboratories are well stocked with equipment and are arranged to allow flexible teaching spaces and encourage a rich experience of practical science. Teaching science is lively, innovative, creative and rigorous but – above all – fun. All classes are taught in mixed-ability groups. The extra-curricular provision is also very strong with a thriving and successful Science Club, a F1 in Schools group, as well as a host of 'gifted and talented' activities and curriculum-based trips and visits.

Science is a popular option at key stages 4 and 5. Approximately half of all students opt for Separate Sciences at key stage 4 and more than half of Year 12 study at least one science. Our A Level Year 12 options usually have two groups running in Biology and Psychology and at least one group each in Chemistry and Physics. The department enjoys teaching science in an active and practical manner. At key stage 3, the school follows its own scheme of work, created using staff interests and expertise to meet the students' needs. Students then have a free choice to study Combined Science or Separate Sciences at GCSE. Students are not only very successful at science, but they also enjoy science. This is reflected in the outcomes in the summer 2024 examinations with science 'value-added' scores significantly above the national average. Achievement at A level is consistently high, with a number of students achieving the very top grades and studying science at world-leading universities.

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic science teacher with a specialism in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. A Level teaching will be available for a suitably qualified candidate in their specialism. Within the team, we also teach A level Psychology, and this option is available for any science teacher with an interest in developing their skills in that direction. It is important to us to have an engaging teacher of science who will join and enrich our strong team of teachers. This post is suitable for an ECT or an experienced teacher. We have a strong track record of supporting trainee teachers and ECTs. **Whilst initially this post is a one-year temporary position, there is a strong possibility that this role will become permanent.**

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. Many of our staff chose to send their children to the school for their education and school's admission oversubscription criteria supports this.



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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 Monday 24th February 2025. 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