



DURHAM JOHNSTON
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
DARE TO BE WISE



Teacher of Physics

MPS/UPS Full time

Permanent - September 2025

Crossgate Moor, Durham, DH1 4SU

www.durhamjohnston.org.uk

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Letter of Introduction

Mrs McFadden
Headteacher

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the school as a Teacher of Physics.

Durham Johnston Comprehensive School is a happy, successful and dynamic community. We have a national reputation for academic excellence and are well respected in our local community. We highly value our staff and their well-being and allow a significant amount of professional autonomy.

We are looking to recruit a talented and ambitious Physics teacher who is both an expert practitioner and a colleague with a deep interest in the subject.

Teachers at our school are passionate about their area of expertise and passionate about social justice. We believe that every child, regardless of social background, has the right to an enriching and rigorous academic education. We all share a commitment to ensuring the children in our care are able to feel safe, happy and supported to achieve their full potential. Our senior leaders and post holders have a genuine commitment to ethical leadership and if you share these values, we would welcome your application.

It is important to note that our intake is fully comprehensive. We have many students joining us in Year 7 with the potential to achieve outstanding success academically alongside students who can find accessing education challenging for a variety of reasons. It is truly important to us that all these students benefit from their time here. We are seeking teachers who can offer academic stretch in addition to focused and exciting learning in the classroom. You should also have a genuine commitment to social justice and ensuring that every child you teach benefits from your outstanding subject knowledge.

We encourage colleagues at any stage in their career to apply to work in our school. We will always appoint the best person for our school community regardless of age or experience. Therefore, applications from ECTs are welcomed, as are applications from more experienced teachers.

Informal visits to the school are welcome. If you would like to visit the school, please email school@durhamjohnston.org.uk marked for the attention of Stephen Horn (Associate Assistant Headteacher) to book a time.

In addition to completing the application form we would like you to outline, in no more than two sides of A4 paper, why your experience and personal qualities make you a strong candidate for this post, especially in relation to the job description and person specification.

The closing date is **12.00pm on Monday 19th May 2025**. If you are returning your application by email please use the following address: recruitment@durhamjohnston.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,



Rosslyn McFadden
Headteacher

Advertisement

Teacher of Physics MPS/UPS Full Time



Teacher of Science (Physics) MPS/ UPS Full time

Permanent

Required for September 2025

Durham Johnston Comprehensive School is an high achieving school that offers high levels of autonomy to staff and consequently has a track record of academic excellence. We are looking to appoint a truly effective practitioner to join our high-achieving Science Department.

Applications from ECTs are welcomed, as are applications from more experienced teachers.

Teachers at our school are passionate about their subject and passionate about social justice. We believe that every child, regardless of social background, has the right to an enriching and rigorous academic education. We all share a commitment to ensuring the children in our care are able to feel safe, happy and supported to achieve their full potential. If you share these values we would welcome your application.

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“Durham Johnston Comprehensive School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all its staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All post holders are subject to a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check

As a disability confident employer, we are committed to employing disabled people and people with health conditions making reasonable adjustments to support disabled applicants when required”.

Closing Date: 12.00pm on Monday 19th May 2025

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recruitment@durhamjohnston.org.uk

Job Description

Teacher of Physics MPS/UPS Full Time



At Durham Johnston Comprehensive School everyone's first responsibility is to work towards the fulfilment of the school plan. While job descriptions vary, our common commitment to the welfare and success of our young people does not.

General Responsibilities

- To provide successful teaching and learning opportunities for all students so that everyone is able to achieve academic excellence and acquire essential knowledge and prepare them for diverse opportunities.
- To be committed to improving the quality of your teaching in pursuit of academic excellence for all and to take a full and active part in CPD to this end.
- To be a committed and supportive member of your department, cohort team and the whole school community, working collaboratively to ensure the best outcomes for every member of our school community in the name of both social justice and public service.
- To fulfil the role of the form tutor as an essential part of a student's day and their educational experience. The form tutor is in a unique and privileged position, able to see a fuller picture of a student's life and able to support them in being successful.
- To promote good order and discipline in school by maintaining and supporting whole school routines and performing duties as instructed.
- To celebrate and encourage the achievements of all students.
- To promote the aims of the school plan as appropriate to the professional role of a teacher.
- To participate in appropriate meetings with colleagues and parents.
- To take part in performance management as directed.
- To follow staff procedures and the procedures and instructions of the LEA and the governing body.
- To work at the reasonable direction of the Headteacher.

This job description is current and was reviewed on 20th April 2025, but following consultation with you, may be altered to reflect or anticipate changes in the job which are commensurate with the salary and job title. All posts will be reviewed annually.

Person Specification

Teacher of Physics MPS/UPS Full Time



Essential Requirements

The following points give a list of qualities which are essential for appointment to this post (with the methods by which they will be assessed indicated in brackets).

- An honours degree in an appropriate discipline. (application form)
- An approved teaching qualification. (application form)
- Recent successful teaching experience as a qualified teacher, or a successful teaching practice. (reference, interviews, lesson)
- The ability and willingness to collaborate effectively with colleagues. (reference, interviews)
- Ability to provide and maintain a safe, calm and well ordered environment for all students, focussed on safeguarding students and developing exemplary behaviour. (reference, interviews, lesson)
- A genuine passion for social justice which runs alongside a passion for your subject and the potential to become an excellent teacher at Durham Johnston Comprehensive School. (letter, reference, interviews)
- Insistence upon high standards for all students, instilling a keen sense of personal responsibility and accountability for students. To challenge poor or inappropriate behaviour when necessary. (reference, interviews, lesson)
- The ability to communicate effectively with young people from a range of backgrounds. (reference, lesson, interviews)
- Strong organisational skills and the ability to meet deadlines. (reference, interviews)

Commitment to Ethical Leadership

All teachers and postholders at Durham Johnston Comprehensive School are expected to exemplify seven virtues of Ethical Leadership. We define these virtues as:

Trust: Leaders should be trustworthy and reliable. They hold trust on behalf of children and should be beyond reproach. They are honest about their motivations.

Wisdom: Leaders use experience, knowledge, insight, understanding and good sense to make sound judgements. They should demonstrate restraint and self-awareness, act calmly and rationally, exercising moderation and propriety as they serve their schools and colleges wisely.

Kindness: Leaders demonstrate respect, generosity of spirit, understanding and good temper. Where unavoidable conflict occurs, difficult messages should be given humanely.

Person Specification

Teacher of Physics MPS/UPS Full Time



Justice: Leaders should be fair, and work for the good of all children. Leaders should work fairly for the good of children from all backgrounds. They should seek to enable all young people to lead useful, happy and fulfilling lives

Service: Leaders should be conscientious and dutiful. They should demonstrate humility and self-control, supporting the structures and rules which safeguard quality. Their actions should protect high-quality education.

Courage: Leaders should work courageously in the best interests of children and young people. They protect their safety and their right to a broad, effective and creative education. They should hold one another to account courageously.

Optimism: Leaders should be positive and encouraging. Despite difficulties and pressures, we are developing excellent education provision to change the world for the better.

Department overview

Teacher of Physics MPS/UPS Full Time



The Science Department at Durham Johnston consistently return excellent results for A level and GCSE due to the well qualified experienced staff, most of whom have degrees in the subject they teach, collaborating to help students archive the best possible outcomes.

Science teachers at Durham Johnston recognise the key contribution practical work makes in science and include experiments in lessons whenever possible. The department works in modern labs with an extensive range of practical equipment available to use.

Technical support is provided by two experience and well qualified technicians who work efficiently as part of the Science Department to support and advise on all practical matters.

The Department would welcome any well qualified professional ready to provide challenge to some of the most able students in the country, while also having the skills to make science engaging and enjoyable for students of all abilities.

GCSE Separates Results 2023-24 (117 students)

	9	7+	5+
Biology	24%	61%	92%
Chemistry	20%	70%	96%
Physics	57%	68%	95%

GCSE Combined Results 2023-24 (131 students)

	7+	5+	4+
Science	16.4%	58%	76%

A level Results 2021-22

	No Students	A*-A	A*-B	A*-C
Biology	62	29%	54%	67%
Chemistry	58	39%	73%	80%
Physics	49	48%	74%	86%

Sixth form numbers are incredibly healthy in all three sciences with multiple classes filled every year in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This high rate of retention into KS5 is testament to the challenging and engaging lessons delivered by the department at KS4 and KS3.

KS3

In Years 7 and 8, science is taught in mixed-ability tutor groups, Year 7 and 8 follow a curriculum based on exploring science revised to meet the needs of our cohort. We have a focus on use of practical work to develop students' interest in science and allow students to develop their understanding of key concepts that will prepare them for an academic GCSE course.

Department Overview

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For the first half of Year 9, students are taught in groups set by ability, we have developed a scheme which provides the most appropriate grounding for KS4. Students move on to GCSE content at the midpoint of Year 9.

KS4

We have embraced the many changes to the KS4 curriculum in science and begin the teaching of the GCSE specifications in the second half of Year 9. We are following the Edexcel specifications in both combined and separate sciences. Students are selected for the different pathways dependent on their interest as well as their ability and are taught in similar ability sets by subject specialists wherever possible.

Sixth Form

Sciences are popular in the sixth form, and classes are large. At Durham Johnston we follow the OCR specifications for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. We currently have 3 teaching groups for Physics in Year 12 and 2 groups for Physics in Year 13, with a similar number expected next year.

Our highly motivated students work well and enjoy excellent working relationships with teachers. Our results are consistently of a very high standard.

Enrichment opportunities

The Science Department has strong links do Durham University through staff and parents and uses this links to take advantage of a range of enrichment opportunities for sixth form and lower school students including lectures, visit days and outreach activities.

The department runs a range of science club for KS3 students as well as offering students the opportunity to take part in the crest award.

Staff development

Regular staff meetings provide times for the Science Department to work together to develop their understanding of key challenges linked to science teaching with a recent focus on curriculum design and assessment.

Context of Durham Johnston Comprehensive School



Core Values

School systems at Durham Johnston are built around five core values which, together, form our ethos and are at the heart of everything that we do.

Academic Excellence: a belief in progress for all.

Acquiring Knowledge: the importance of being an educated person and knowing things.

Social Justice: providing opportunities for all, regardless of background or personal circumstance.

Public Service: the importance of making a contribution to both the school community and wider society.

Diverse Opportunities: a rounded education that 'opens doors' regardless of location or specialism.

It is important to us that anyone wanting to work at Durham Johnston realises that each of our 5 values are of equal importance. We want our students to gain both a high level of academic knowledge, whilst also contributing to the wider community. We also want every child to enjoy such opportunities, regardless of background. Our teachers have a passion for their subject and a determination to ensure that every child, no matter where they grow up, whatever their personal circumstances, whatever life has given or denied them, has the opportunity to fulfil their potential and to be happy.

Leadership

The school is led in a way that seeks to maximise the autonomy of individual classroom teachers and departments, as we recognise that highly dedicated, educated and trained professionals are the people best placed to determine how to teach their subject to the individuals in their classroom. The leadership of the school look to ensure that departments and classroom teachers are supported in a way that allows them to focus on this as much as possible; we keep good order and let our teachers teach.

Pastoral Care

Our pastoral systems help to ensure that every child feels valued and cared for. We believe strongly in the power of community to help make potentially worried or anxious children feel safe and secure, and to provide a sense of collective endeavour. Our tutors play a vital role in this. Tutors can also help students make the most of our vast extra-curricular programme. We are justly proud of the range of sports our young people can take part in and the school has regularly been recognised in the top 1% of sport schools nationally by School Sport magazine. This reflects both

Context of Durham Johnston Comprehensive School (Cont.)



the range of sports offered, as well as the high standards that many of our students achieve. Our music department lead a series of highly popular orchestras and choirs, with the department being recognised as a Music Mark School Member "in recognition of a commitment to providing high quality music education for all children and young people" as well as holding the PTI Mark for Subject Leadership. However, it is not just in these two areas that children can access a wide range of opportunities, our offer extends from coding to gardening; from film club to Ancient Greek. There are clubs for everyone and our young people always meet students with a shared interest. We actively seek to ensure that all children find something they can enjoy during their time at Durham Johnston. We were chosen as The Sunday Times Comprehensive School of the Year for 2019/20 and we are very proud that the award was based upon a wide range of factors, including the opportunities that we provide for students regardless of their backgrounds or personal circumstances.

Staff Wellbeing

The wellbeing of our staff is central to the ethos of Durham Johnston Comprehensive School. We have a strong sense of community within our school and our staff work very hard as a team to support one another. We welcome opportunities to come together as a staff and these can range from tea and scones in the staff room, to the highly competitive end of term departmental quizzes. Many staff socialise both inside and outside of school and in school run sessions such as sport and fitness clubs and wellbeing sessions. Our staff like each other and enjoy spending time together.

At a leadership level we are committed to the values of ethical leadership and try to model this at all times. As a leadership team we listen and respond to staff concerns and our staff are able to raise problems and tough issues when necessary. In a recent staff survey, an overwhelming majority of our staff said they felt well supported by the school's senior leadership team.

Living in the North East

Living in the North East is an attractive proposition within itself. Many of our staff live within our catchment area and house prices in the region mean that it is ideal both for those seeking to establish themselves on the property ladder, or for families in need of more space. As well as the historic city of Durham, the surrounding area offers much in the way of natural beauty for people to enjoy, whether walking in the Wear valley, visiting the Borders or North York Moors, or surfing in the North Sea on the Northumberland Coast. Well served by transport links, the school is close to both Durham train station, a key stop on the East Coast Mainline, and the A1 (M), allowing easy access to Newcastle, York and London.

Durham is a beautiful place to live and at Durham Johnston Comprehensive School we value experience and believe that teachers should be given the professional autonomy to teach and make decisions that work for their students. On that basis, we hope that we are the right school for you.