



Sheldon School  
Chippenham

# Candidate Information



**Teacher of Social Sciences**

**Closing Date: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Noon**  
**Interview Date: To be confirmed**

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## Cover Letter

May 2023

Dear Colleague,

### FULL-TIME TEACHER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES PERMANENT

#### REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Thank you for your interest in this full-time position. We are seeking to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced Teacher of Social Sciences for September 2023 who is able and willing to be an enthusiastic member of a supportive, professional team. 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 early career teachers. It is anticipated that the successful candidate will teach at least two subjects from Criminology, Psychology and Sociology at A Level (or equivalent).

Sheldon is a high-achieving school with a strong record of success. Irrespective of league tables and Ofsted ratings (in which Sheldon has always fared well), it is my belief that Sheldon is a great school. Now in my eleventh year here and this being the sixth school in which I have taught, I continue to enjoy working in a school that is relentlessly positive, with staff who routinely go the extra mile. Despite the obvious challenges that have faced people in all walks of life over the past two to three years, staff and students at Sheldon have remained very upbeat. Students appreciate the efforts of our staff and there is a real sense of community.

Supporting this, we offer all colleagues who join us a full programme of induction and support, and there is a continual focus on staff development and wellbeing, both of which rated very highly in the most recent external survey. You would be joining a very hardworking and supportive faculty which has a strong collegiate atmosphere and I can assure you that, were you to join us, you would find immense satisfaction in the job that you do here.

Further details concerning the faculty and the school are enclosed from Emily Davis, Head of Faculty together with an application form; in addition, we have included other information to outline the all-round offer. However, please also take the time to look at what happens in the school day-to-day by visiting our website and 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 post 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](mailto:hr@sheldonschool.co.uk). Closing date for applications is **12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (12 noon)**.

We hope to interview by the middle of June, so if you have heard nothing by this date, please assume you have been

Hardenhuish Lane, Chippenham, Wilts. SN14 6HJ

**Headteacher:** Neil Spurdell BSc (Hons)

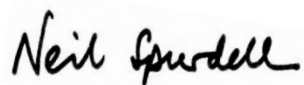
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unsuccessful on this occasion. If this proves to be the case, thank you for your interest in Sheldon School and best wishes for your future career.

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.

Emily Davis  
Head of Faculty

May 2023





## Social Sciences

### CRIMINOLOGY LEVEL 3

The course follows the WJEC specification:

CERTIFICATE		DIPLOMA	
Unit 1:	Changing awareness of crime	Unit 3:	Crime scene to courtroom
Unit 2:	Criminological theories	Unit 4:	Crime and punishment

### PSYCHOLOGY A LEVEL

The course follows the AQA specification:

AS LEVEL		A2 LEVEL	
Paper 1:	Introductory Topics: Attachments, Social Influence, Memory, Psychopathology	Paper 1:	Introductory Topics (AS)
Paper 2:		Paper 2:	
	Psychology in Context: Approaches, Research Methods, Biopsychology	Paper 3:	Issues and Options: Relationships, Issues and Debates, Schizophrenia, Forensics

### SOCIOLOGY A LEVEL

The course follows the AQA specification:

AS LEVEL		A2 LEVEL	
Paper 1:	Education Methods in Context	Paper 1:	Education (AS) Theory and Methods
Paper 2:		Paper 2:	
	Families and Households Research Methods	Paper 3:	Crime and Deviance Theory and Methods

The course is well resourced, with four teachers of social sciences at A Level. Students have access to textbooks in school for both courses. Teachers also have access to a variety of A-Level texts that support our syllabus as well as a range of other subscriptions. 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.

## Job Description

*Sheldon School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post requires a satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure.*

<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Teacher of Social Sciences</b>
<b>Salary:</b>	<b>MPS/UPS</b>
<b>Responsible to:</b>	<b>Head of Humanities Faculty for teaching and learning Head of Year for role as a form tutor</b>

### Key responsibilities:

- To teach allocated groups according to the faculty/subject scheme of work and in accordance with the general methodology of the faculty/subject area and school.
- To plan and prepare lessons to meet the needs of all learners referring to the SEND register, medical needs reports and information for disadvantaged pupils.
- To be responsible for the academic performance and behaviour of groups taught, in accordance with the stated aims of the school and faculty/subject area.
- To undertake the duties of a form tutor (or attached staff member to a year group) as allocated by the Headteacher.
- To keep accurate records of the work covered by all teaching groups including records of homework and coursework set as part of the scheme of work.
- To keep accurate records of students' progress and prepare such assessments and reports as are required by the faculty/subject area, school or National Curriculum.
- To maintain accurate records of students' attendance at lessons and highlight any unusual absence.
- To complete the organisational tasks related to normal teaching duties.
- To liaise with, and set appropriate tasks for, Teaching Assistants allocated to groups or individuals taught.
- To undertake responsibilities appropriate to a main scale teacher within the faculty/ subject area as indicated in this job description.
- To contribute to the schemes of work and the improvement plan for the faculty/subject area.
- To carry out tasks allocated in accordance with the faculty/subject area improvement plan and meet the targets set within the faculty/subject area plan.
- To communicate and consult with parents in accordance with school policy and practice including attendance at parents' evenings and school events.
- To participate in the meetings programme of the school.
- To cover for absent colleagues when called upon, in accordance with school policy and practice within the national guidelines for workforce reform.



Other:

- To be proactive in safeguarding all pupils in line with school policies and procedures
- In addition to the specific duties listed above, ensure that the professional standards for teachers with QTS are met
- To take part in the school's staff continual professional development programme and appraisal process
- To support the aims and ethos of the school
- To comply with the school's health and safety policy
- To support the Head of Faculty/Head of Year, undertaking any other reasonable request not specified in this job description but that is commensurate with the role.

*While every effort has been made to explain the main duties and responsibilities of the post, each individual task undertaken may not be identified. This job description will be reviewed regularly and may be subject to amendment or modification at any time after consultation with the post holder. It is not a comprehensive statement of procedures and tasks, but sets out the main expectations of the school in relation to the post holder's professional responsibilities and duties.*





# Sheldon School

Chippenham



**Headteacher:** Neil Spurdell BSc (Hons)  
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