



Chigwell School

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Teacher of Biology



Introduction

Chigwell School is seeking a well-qualified, dynamic and committed teacher to join our highly successful science department. The successful applicant will be expected to teach biology at KS3, iGCSE and A Level. The post would suit a new entrant to the profession, a talented NQT or a more experienced teacher looking for progression. This is a full-time position required from September 2024.

Background

Founded in 1629 by Samuel Harsnett, the son of a Colchester baker who went on to become Archbishop of York, Chigwell School stands on its original site with the original school building still in use. However, whilst Chigwell of today is conscious of its long-standing history, it is a forward-looking, ambitious, coeducational independent school of 1,080 pupils aged four to eighteen. It enjoys excellent facilities, a dedicated staff, bright and hardworking pupils, and a site of 100 acres.

Chigwell School is located in the picturesque village of Chigwell just over ten miles from central London and on the Central Line. The extensive, beautiful grounds are close to the edge of Epping Forest and it is rare for a school to have so much space and yet be so close to the centre of the capital. Most pupils are day pupils but in the Sixth Form there is a small community of international boarders, roughly thirty from sixteen countries, and these live in four small boarding houses.

As well as being an academic school, Chigwell has the reputation for providing a rich and full education, with plenty of opportunities for all pupils who are enthusiastic, co-operative and able. Chigwell is a caring and friendly school, with a close sense of community, not least between colleagues. As the Good Schools Guide reports: *Academically, pupils are put through their paces but it all seems to be done in such a civilised and pleasant manner that you are more likely to hear pupils talk about opportunities and prospects than pressure and stress. "Anyone who wants to do well here, will do well" said one student, "and I can't think of a nicer place to succeed."*



The School Development Programme

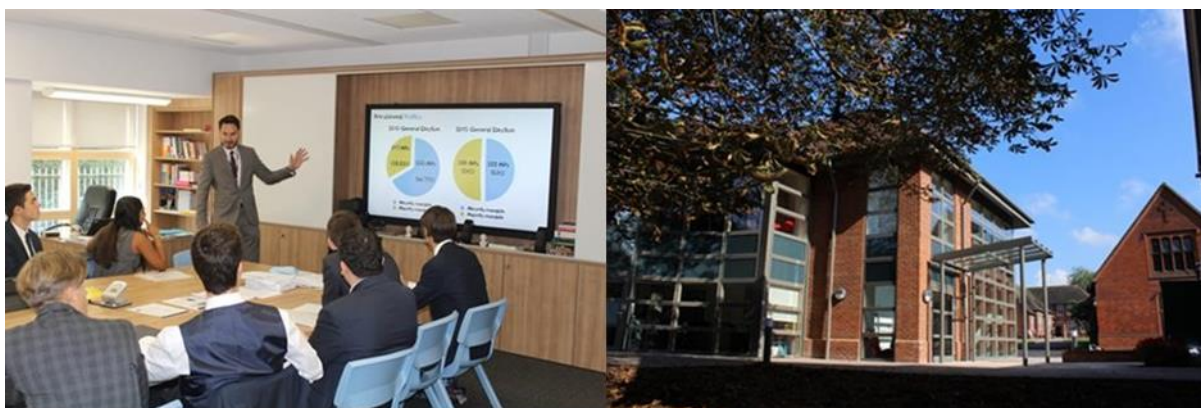
Over recent years, the School's facilities have been extensively developed in order to enhance the educational experience that pupils receive. The development programme has included the following additions:

- 2008 Wilson Building teaching block
- 2008 Floodlit AstroTurf pitch
- 2009 Junior School library extension
- 2010 Complete redevelopment of catering facilities
- 2010 Harsnett's and Church House converted into boys' boarding houses
- 2012 The Old Chigwellian Club and land was incorporated into the school estate
- 2013 Pre Prep School completed and opened
- 2013 Two new science labs created
- 2014 Drama Centre balcony extended to provide additional music and drama rehearsal space
- 2016 The Risham Sarao Sixth Form Centre completed and opened
- 2017 Extension of Dining Hall
- 2018 Renovation of the Chapel
- 2019 Extension of Junior School
- 2020 3G football pitch constructed
- 2023 New Sports and Wellness Centre
- 2023 New Wellbeing Centre

The Governors have recently agreed a development masterplan and the next priorities on the School's development plan are to:

- Further expand our provision of bursaries
- Expand the facilities for music





The School

Some pupils join Chigwell School in Reception and there are two classes in each of the three Pre Prep year groups. A small number of children join the Junior School at 7+ (Year 3) and there are three classes in each of the KS2 year groups. At 11+ (Year 7), there is a further entry with four or five classes making up Years 7 to 11. Again, there is a small entry into the Sixth Form. Entry at each stage is selective and although there are three main sections to the School (Pre Prep, Junior School and Senior School) these sections work closely together and there is a common ethos running throughout.

There are over a hundred teachers and together with the support staff, there is a friendly, mutually-supportive atmosphere. We place considerable emphasis on life outside the classroom and believe that the opportunities that we provide help to fulfil our Vision: To inspire our pupils to fulfil their potential and forge their path to success. The School Values are:

- **Happiness First**
We create a nurturing space where happiness underpins our achievements and drives us forward.
- **Courageous and Resilient**
We seize opportunities all around us and have the confidence to embrace them wholeheartedly.
- **Innovative Approach**
We adapt and evolve, influencing our changing world.
- **Community of Kindness**
We support and collaborate with each other, making a positive contribution to the community.
- **Lifelong Learning**
We cultivate curiosity, keeping the passion for learning alive beyond the school gates.





The Department

We want pupils to be inspired by their teachers, with whom they work in close partnership, taking advantage of the enriching programme of co-curricular opportunities. The curriculum offered from Year 7 is broad and balanced with a core of subjects and an element of increased choice for pupils as they progress through the School.

In Year 7 pupils follow a science course based on the National Curriculum. From Year 8 pupils study biology, physics and chemistry as separate subjects where they are taught many of the underlying principles needed for the iGCSE course. From Year 9 onwards students follow the Edexcel iGCSE syllabuses with the vast majority being entered for separate sciences in physics, chemistry and biology.

A level biology students follow OCR, as do the other A level sciences. Between twenty and thirty students per year group choose to study biology at A level indicating the strength and popularity of the subject in the Sixth Form. In the last three years most students have achieved an average A*/A/B pass rate of approximately 80% at A level.

There is a strong emphasis on learning by experimentation and students are also encouraged to use IT. At Chigwell we promote independent thinking and learning and there are many opportunities for pupils to develop a real interest in biology beyond the specification requirements. Students are offered a large range of activities and experiences beyond the classroom. There are a wide variety of field trips, academic lectures and essay competitions for all year groups throughout the year. Students have the opportunity to take part in national biology competitions and A Level students regularly participate in the National Biology Olympiad competition with considerable success with some students achieving Gold Medal standards putting them in the top 5% of the thousands of students who take part every year.

The science facilities are very good, the department having benefited from a number of refurbishments and extensions over the years. The Biology Department is very well equipped and practical classes are extremely well serviced by dedicated technicians. Chigwell School is increasingly using ICT as a teaching, learning and

administrative tool. All laboratories and offices are networked. All laboratories are fitted with fixed board projectors and interactive whiteboards and a large variety of data logging equipment is readily available for use in the laboratory. All teachers receive a laptop computer.

The Science department, indeed the whole School, provides a very friendly and supportive working environment.



The Person

We are looking for a committed well qualified teacher who can communicate a passion and enthusiasm for the subject. Applicants should be able to demonstrate a structured approach to curriculum preparation and have experience of information technology in the teaching environment. Specifically, the successful candidate will be expected to:

- Maintain and extend the high quality of delivery and teaching currently employed in the department
- Teach biology from Year 7 to A level
- Contribute to the pastoral and extra-curricular life of the School

Chigwell students are genuinely eager to learn. This appointment would suit an enthusiastic and talented teacher wishing to gain further experience in this highly academic school. There is a well-established programme of professional development and the School will provide support as needed.

Hours of Work

This is a full time position.

Benefits

Chigwell School is a very happy place to work and the School provides a supportive working environment. There is a well-developed programme of professional development. Pupils are enthusiastic, well-behaved and eager to learn, and colleagues are supportive, dedicated and get on well together. There is a strong sense of community.

Other benefits of working at Chigwell School include:

- A competitive salary and generous holiday entitlement
- Strong commitment to professional development
- Membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme
- Generous fee remission for eligible children
- Personal Accident Cover
- Employee Assistance Support Programme
- Complimentary lunch and break time refreshments during term time
- Use of Sports and Wellness Centre facilities outside of the school day
- Free parking and cycle racks
- Medical Centre on site
- Use of School Library
- A beautiful working environment – 100 acre site, beautifully landscaped with a number of listed buildings
- Good transport links by tube (Central Line), road and local bus route - free shuttle bus to the underground station
- A supportive community of highly motivated students and staff



Applications

Applicants should complete the teaching staff application form which can be accessed directly from our website: www.chigwell-school.org (Vacancies) and sent to the HR department at: hr@chigwell-school.org

The Deputy Head (Staff and Systems), Mrs Anna Savage, will be happy to answer any questions; he can be contacted at the School by telephone 020 8501 5701 or by e-mail to asavage@chigwell-school.org

The School is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes a diverse pool of candidates.

Applications will be considered upon receipt. Candidates will be contacted by telephone or email to attend interview if required. Please note that the School reserves the right to interview and appoint before the closing date.

Chigwell is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers, prohibition orders and enhanced DBS.