



Chigwell School

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Teacher of Religious Studies (Full time/Permanent)



Introduction

An opportunity exists for an enthusiastic, qualified graduate to teach Religious Studies from KS3-KS5 and be part of a school that is not only highly successful academically but also in sport, art, music and drama. The School offers an excellent learning environment providing a broad and balanced education.

The successful applicant will demonstrate a passion for their subject and be committed to developing active learning strategies to challenge and inspire our students. This post would be suitable for an enthusiastic and talented teacher wishing to gain further experience in a very supportive environment or for an NQT. This is a full-time, permanent position from April 2024. A September start could also be considered.

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 1060 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 Religious Studies Department

Religious Studies is a very popular and successful subject at Chigwell, with many students choosing it at GCSE and at A level. It is a genuinely thought-provoking subject and is not exclusively for those who follow a particular faith; the course that we study does not seek to make the case for any particular religion. Students at Chigwell come from a range of faiths or may adhere to none. Our aim in the department is to introduce all pupils to the many major theological, philosophical, and ethical problems, as well as the different religions, philosophies and ethical systems which are found in every culture and language. Ultimately, our aim is to support and be part of a students' preparation for entry into the adult world.

Chigwell students are genuinely eager to learn and the School is increasingly using ICT as a teaching, learning and administrative tool. All rooms are networked and fitted with at least fixed board projectors. All teachers receive a laptop computer.

The examination courses followed are:

- A Level (OCR) Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics, Developments in Religious Thought - Christian Theology
- GCSE (AQA) Paper 1: Christianity and Islam & Paper 2: Themes

In KS3 the following topics are covered: Biblical Texts, World Religions and Worldviews and philosophical and ethical topics like the Problem of Evil and Science and Religion.

RS is popular at GCSE with over half the year group taking it with class sizes around 20 pupils. At A'level class sizes are around 6-10 pupils



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. Specifically, the successful candidate will:

- Work under the direction of the Head of Department.
- Have excellent subject knowledge and a relevant degree and teaching qualification.
- Contribute professionally to the team effort of the department and be supportive of colleagues.
- Have the ability to work to and achieve high standards.
- Have the ability to use a range of teaching methods in the classroom.
- Have good communication skills.
- Be a competent user of ICT and have an interest in using these skills in the classroom.
- Have enthusiasm and sense of purpose in delivery and assessment.
- Be prepared to contribute to departmental extra-curricular activities.
- Have energy and commitment.
- Be expected to take a full and active part in the life of the School as far as this is possible and be happy to contribute to the extra-curricular programme.

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

Salary

The salary on offer is competitive and based on National Pay Scales with a Chigwell enhancement.

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 Teacher's 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 the 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 and excellent facilities
- Good transport links by tube (Central Line), road and local bus route
- A supportive community of highly motivated students and staff

Applications

Applicants should complete the application form which can be accessed directly from our website (<https://www.chigwell-school.org/vacancies/>) and send 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; she can be contacted at the School by telephone 020 8501 5701 or by e-mail to asavage@chigwell-school.org

We reserve the right to invite candidates for interview prior to the closing date and to close vacancies early if we have sufficient suitable applications. Therefore, we encourage interested applicants to submit an application as soon as possible.

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.

