



HIGHGATE SCHOOL

Teacher of Classics for September 2012

A very able graduate classicist who is an inspiring teacher is required to teach Classics throughout the Senior School, following the appointment of Mr Philip Harrison as Head of Classics at Merchant Taylors' School. The ability to teach Greek is desirable but is not required.

This is an exciting opportunity for either an experienced classroom practitioner who enjoys the company of bright, ambitious and well-motivated pupils or someone wishing to gain experience of teaching in an academically selective secondary school. Recent experience of teaching examination classes or of examining at this level would be a recommendation. There are opportunities to contribute to the pastoral and co-curricular life of the school, both aspects of which are valued at Highgate.

The School has in place DfE recognised arrangements for the Induction Year and the confirmation of NQT status and has considerable experience of and success in guiding entrants to the profession to qualified status. For all teachers new to Highgate, regardless of experience, there is a strong and supportive framework of induction to the School.

The Curriculum

The department is responsible for the teaching of Latin, Greek and Classical Civilisation in Years 7 to 13. All pupils study Latin in Years 7 and 8, following the Cambridge Latin Course. Some pupils, at the recommendation of the department, follow our own course in Classical Civilisation in Year 9, but the vast proportion of pupils continues with Latin. This year, two sets of pupils are taking Greek as well as Latin as a single option: thus we have around thirty-five pupils in Year 9 studying Greek. Latin, Greek and Classical Civilisation are options for GCSE in Year 10/11. Currently the numbers taking Classical subjects in years 10 and 11 respectively are: Latin 67 and 67; Greek 7 and 10; Classical Civilisation 23 and 20. OCR courses are followed in Latin and Greek, while the AQA course is followed in Classical Civilisation: this is the case at GCSE and at A Level. The current numbers in years 12 and 13 respectively are: Latin 18 and 15; Greek 1 and 4; Classical Civilisation 7 and 12.

From 2012-2013, the department is also offering Ancient History as a GCSE option for the first time; the OCR syllabus will be followed.

In 2011, 63% of candidates taking GCSE Latin gained an A* grade, with a further 22% gaining an A grade. All five candidates taking GCSE Greek gained grades A* or A. At AS, 90% of candidates taking Latin achieved an A grade, whilst all but two of the eight A2 Latin candidates gained at least grade A, with three gaining the A* grade. No candidate in any of the three subjects at either AS or A2 achieved below a B grade.

The Department

There are six full-time and one part-time members of the department, as well as two other members of staff (the Director of Studies, and the Head of Year 8) who also teach Classics – a total of nine in the department. The Department is proud of its academic record, especially of the numbers who successfully take Latin to GCSE and to A Level. While the numbers taking Greek have fluctuated, the new initiative in Year 9 has led to an increase in the numbers of pupils experiencing the subject. Numbers taking Classical Civilisation fluctuate, but there are usually healthy numbers of pupils at GCSE and this subject attracts its own very interested and committed pupils. In most years, several pupils embark on a classics course at university, including Oxford or Cambridge. The department aims to foster an enthusiasm for the ancient world, in all its facets, while placing particular emphasis on the analytical skills acquired through the study of Latin and Greek and the study of ancient literature in the original languages. We aim to make the experience of learning all four classical subjects exciting and challenging through a varied use of approaches, materials and a stimulating curriculum. Members of the department work cooperatively and closely as a team and share a common academic ethos and the atmosphere in the department is very positive, productive and supportive. Colleagues willingly share expertise and resources and volunteer for extra responsibilities as and when necessary. The department regularly takes pupils to conferences and museums in London and further afield: a trip to either Greece or Italy takes place every year. There is a Classics Society and a Junior Classics Society, both of which are extremely vibrant and meet on a fortnightly basis. The department is well equipped and resourced, it has its own office area and all classrooms have interactive whiteboards.

Teachers at Highgate enjoy a welcoming, comfortable and exceptionally well-resourced environment and are provided with significant assistance from a range of support staff. Salaries are competitive. The School pays the employer's contribution to the Teachers' Pension Scheme. Terms are shorter than in the maintained sector. Staff have free access to the School's sports facilities, including a swimming pool and a fitness suite.

Guy Waller, the Head of Classics (guy.waller@highgateschool.org.uk) or David Fotheringham, the Director of Studies (david.fotheringham@highgateschool.org.uk) are very happy to answer any questions.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please post the following documents to Mr A S Pettitt, Head Master, Highgate School, North Road, London, N6 4AY (Tel: 020 8347 3576, Fax: 020 8347 5286, Email: hoffice@highgateschool.org.uk). To avoid late delivery of your application, please ensure that you have paid the correct postage eg. a large letter stamp for an A4 envelope.

I. Application form – handwritten and signed

- 2. Letter of application - no longer than one side of A4**
- 3. Full curriculum vitae - including the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email contacts of two referees**

Closing date: 12 noon on Wednesday 9 May 2012, but applications will be considered as they are received.

Criteria for the post of Teacher of Classics

(to be read in conjunction with the details of the post)

1 Essential professional criteria

Criteria	How will these be tested or verified?
A good honours degree in Classics or Latin and excellent subject knowledge	Original degree certificate(s) Questions about subject specialisation (and course content for more recent graduates) Opportunities at interview to discuss techniques for teaching set topics
Experience of teaching GCSE, AS and/or A2 Latin (and Classical Civilisation) successfully, either as an employed teacher or during a teaching placement, and an understanding of effective assessment	A 50-minute lesson to be taught to one of the current post-holder's classes Opportunity to comment on and grade pupils' written work
Excellent communication skills, both written and oral	Two panel interviews; lesson (as above); letter of application
The ability to adapt quickly to a new environment, establish good relations with pupils and gain their confidence	Opportunities at interview to recount experiences where these skills have been demonstrated Questions which referees will be asked as part of the confidential reference request
Awareness and understanding of safeguarding and welfare of children	Questions at interview to test attitudes towards and knowledge of children's safeguarding and welfare Questions which referees will be asked as part of the confidential reference request

2 Desirable professional criteria

Criteria	How will these be tested?
A teaching qualification (eg PGCE, GTP)	Original certificate
Experience of teaching successfully in an academically selective school	Questions which a referee from an academically selective school will be asked as part of the confidential reference request Verification of a candidate's employment history
Knowledge of, and experience of teaching, the particular authors and topics studied currently being taught at AS and A2	Opportunities at interview to recount experience of teaching and of successful strategies used in teaching these topics
A willingness to be involved in the wider life of the department (eg classics societies, visits)	Opportunities at interview to recount experience of running or participating in such activities or to give ideas for these

3 Person specification

Highgate School seeks to appoint teachers who will have, in addition to the professional qualities outlined above, the following proven personal qualities, or the potential to develop them. At interview, candidates will have the opportunity to demonstrate or give an account of these attributes.

Essential

- Profound and continuing interest in the academic subject / s to be taught.

- The depth of knowledge and agility of mind to allow flexibility in lessons, adapting delivery as appropriate in the light of pupils' responses.
- Empathy with pupils across the age and ability spectrum at Highgate and the ability to implement a range of teaching strategies to cater for each individual pupil.
- Capacity to deal sensitively with problems raised by pupils, in line with Highgate's pastoral policies and sanctions system, working in partnership with Highgate's designated staff i/c pastoral care.
- Ability to create effective rapport and a sound relationship with pupils, earning their respect and trust but maintaining proper professional boundaries by not deliberately courting popularity or friendship.

Desirable

- The energy, dynamism and stamina to contribute broadly to the life of a busy co-educational independent day school.
- Willingness to contribute to the extensive range of activities provided for pupils and to support them in their co-curricular pursuits.
- Capacity for industry and initiative in both independent work and as part of teams of colleagues in academic work, pastoral care, sports and co-curricular activities.
- Awareness and understanding of matters relating to the personal, social, health and emotional development of Highgate's pupils.
- Willingness and ability to liaise effectively and professionally between pupils, staff and parents when required, making accurate records of these exchanges.
- Patience and thoughtfulness to see any issues that may arise with pupils, parents or colleagues from a variety of perspectives.
- The ability to defuse difficult situations using different strategies such as careful listening, sensitive use of humour, praise and recognition where due, utilising the School's reward system.
- Retention of a sense of perspective and, on occasion, the invaluable ability to laugh at oneself.

AS Pettitt
Head Master
January 2012