



PRAESTAT OPES SAPIENTIA

HAMPTON SCHOOL

JOB DESCRIPTION

TEACHER OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND PHILOSOPHY

JOB TITLE: Teacher of Religious Studies and Philosophy (full-time, required from January or April 2020)

REPORTING LINE: Head of Religious Studies and Philosophy

ABOUT HAMPTON SCHOOL

Hampton is one of the country's foremost independent schools for boys and for nearly 460 years, has been helping boys to fulfil their potential and realise their aspirations. We are delighted that our examination results and university entrance record consistently rank among the very best achieved anywhere.

The School's examination results and university entrance record consistently rank among the best achieved anywhere. Nearly all Hampton leavers go on to undergraduate courses at Russell Group or equivalent universities. Many boys are offered places at Oxford and Cambridge each year; an increasing number go on to study at leading American universities, often on academic and sporting scholarships. Our alumni network is extremely strong and former pupils remain very interested in their School, in no small part due to the exceptionally warm and mutually respectful relationships enjoyed between Hampton staff and their pupils.

The remarkable range of co-curricular activities on offer here provides each boy with the opportunity to shine and the means to explore new interests. Situated on a green field site in a leafy suburb of South West London, we are fortunate to have over 27 acres of playing fields within our spacious grounds and a generous investment programme ensures that pupils and staff benefit from first-class facilities across all areas of School life. These include a state-of-the-art 3G sports ground, a large Sports Hall and The Hammond Theatre, along with an excellent library and specialist facilities for Art, Music, Science, Technology, IT, and Languages. The Millennium Boat House, shared with the neighbouring girls' school, Lady Eleanor Holles, enjoys a prime location on the nearby River Thames and provides the focal point for our renowned and highly successful Boat Club. In terms of future projects, we are looking forward next to the opening of our new Sixth Form Study and Careers Centre in the Spring Term 2019.

Visitors from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) concluded in March 2016 that Hampton's academic and all-round excellence merited the rarely awarded ISI assessment of pupils' achievements and learning being 'Exceptional'. The inspection team's findings in all other areas were similarly pleasing and the highest possible judgements were achieved across the board.

A copy of the full ISI report can be found on the School website.

We hope you share our vision for an inspiring, modern and exciting education. Further information for applicants can be found at <https://hamptonschool.org.uk/document/teacherbrochure>

THE ROLE

An enthusiastic, well-qualified Teacher of Religious Studies is required from January or April 2020. This is an excellent opportunity to join a highly successful department in an outstanding School. Teaching up to Pre-U Level you will be committed to passing on your expertise of the subject as well as promoting and maintaining the high standards of pupil achievement and contributing to the development of outstanding teaching practice across the department.

Contribution to the wider life of the School is also expected from staff at Hampton.

Teachers may be responsible to other colleagues in their work (e.g. a Form Tutor will have the Head of Year as their immediate line manager for pastoral work).

THE DEPARTMENT

Hampton School has a healthy tradition of Religious Studies and Philosophy at all levels. The GCSE, AS Level, and Pre-U courses are popular and extremely well-supported, regularly drawing some of the School's brightest pupils. Around 75% of our Upper Sixth cohorts over the past three years have chosen to pursue these subjects at university. Indeed, we regularly send students to read Philosophy and Theology courses at Oxford, Cambridge, and other leading universities. Our aim is to provide genuinely imaginative, varied, and challenging courses at all levels in the School.

Although full guidelines and support material are provided for all the courses we teach, the ethos of the Department is to encourage individual teachers to shape the basic themes and material according to their own enthusiasms and specialisms, and the developing interests of the class groups. We seek to create a classroom ethos of collaboration and discussion, in response to a variety of high-quality stimuli. The last few years have seen a significant growth in the range of departmental resources, and we are excited by the enrichment that this continuing process provides.

There are currently eight members of the Department. The successful candidate person will be required for 30 periods per week and will teach groups throughout the School's age and ability range.

Lower School

The First Year have two Religious Studies and Philosophy lessons per week. They begin the year with a course on *The Big Questions*, designed to introduce the kind of abstract and philosophical issues that we want them to engage with. They then pursue a systematic study of the beliefs and practices of Judaism and Hinduism (a term each). These courses are complemented by visits to the Jewish Museum in Camden and the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Southall. The Second Year is a systematic study of the beliefs and practices of Christianity, Sikhism, and Islam (a term each). Again, complemented by a trip, this time to the BAPS Mandir in Neasden, the Regent's Park Mosque, and St. Anne's Church on Kew Green. A significant number of boys join the School in the Third Year, where they have one lesson per week. The first term is a classical Philosophy of Religion course. The pupils then study Buddhism, the themes of Forgiveness and Non-Violence, and Islam and the West. The Junior Philosophy Circle is flourishing as a lunchtime club.

Middle School

There are thriving GCSE option groups in the Fourth and Fifth Years which take courses on *Christianity: Beliefs and Practices* and on *Buddhism: Beliefs and Practices* as well as *Thematic Studies* in philosophy and ethics (AQA Specification A). We regularly have over 70 boys in a cohort.

The GCSE is supported by trips to St. Paul's Cathedral and the Buddhapadipa Temple in Wimbledon. Additionally, in the Fourth Year, all boys take a *Life Issues* course (one lesson per week), which provides an introduction to contemporary moral issues from a variety of perspectives, secular and religious.

Sixth Form

The subject has become increasingly popular at Pre-U in recent years with cohorts often in the mid-20s. From September 2015, we have run the Pre-U in Philosophy and Theology with papers in the *Philosophy of Religion* and *Religious Ethics*. For the past four years, we have organised our own Sixth Form Philosophy Conference in Oxford, where professional philosophers give talks on a topic of their choosing. We also run a Philosophy and Theology Extension Programme for those intending to read either Philosophy or Theology at university and we run a separate Logic Club, for any boys interested in studying formal logical reasoning. We will welcome contributions to these from the person appointed.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will be expected to demonstrate the following skills, qualifications, and experience:

Essential Criteria

- A commitment to Safeguarding and the general wellbeing of pupils.
- A good honours degree from a reputable university in either Philosophy or Theology.
- An enthusiasm for Religious Studies and Philosophy and the ability to convey this to pupils.
- The ability to demonstrate characteristics of outstanding teaching practice.
- An awareness of the demands of teaching bright students and a commitment to fostering high academic achievement.
- The ability to work independently and as part of a team and a willingness to contribute to departmental resources.
- A professional approach which inspires confidence in pupils and parents.
- Excellent communication and ICT skills.
- Calmness and efficiency, with the ability to work under pressure at times.
- Commitment to continuing professional development through attendance at INSET.
- Commitment to the all-round ethos of the School, including its co-curricular programme and pastoral approach.
- The ability to develop and maintain effective relationships with all members of the School community and outside agencies.

Desirable Criteria

- A teaching qualification and/or previous teaching experience including teaching Pre-U and/or A Level.
- An ability to offer skills in some part of the co-curricular programme of the School.
- A higher degree or experience of educational or subject-specific research.

Please note that there may be some changes and additions to the above, which will be discussed before implementation and changes may occur as the post develops. This document is designed to provide applicants with a flavour of the position and responsibilities.

SAFEGUARDING

The post holder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom s/he is responsible, or with whom s/he comes into contact will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the School's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post the post holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the School s/he must report any concerns to the School's Safeguarding Designated Persons or to the Headmaster.

Hampton School is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Please note all appointments are subject to the Hampton School Trust Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy and Procedure.

Hampton School Religious Studies Department, September 2019