



Blundell's

FOUNDED 1604

Blundell's School

Head of Physics Job Description

Required for April or September 2022

We require an inspirational teacher of Physics with outstanding leadership skills to lead this thriving department. The successful candidate will be well-qualified and energetic, building on the strengths of the department to develop new and exciting initiatives. They will be expected to teach throughout the school from Key Stage Three to Oxbridge preparation.

The post will suit either an existing Head of Department or an ambitious senior school teacher looking to develop their career in this beautiful part of the country. A willingness to contribute to the extra-curricular life of this busy boarding school is expected.

Blundell's School

Blundell's is committed to academic excellence enabling pupils to realise their full potential. It has been consistently praised for adding considerable value to its broad intake of pupils. In recent years, academic results have seen steady improvement and there is a strong commitment to continuing and indeed accelerating this pleasing development. For more information about the school, visit the website: www.blundells.org

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service. The post-holder's responsibility for safeguarding the welfare of the pupils for whom they are responsible and with whom they come into contact will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with Blundell's Child Protection Policy 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 Blundell's, they must report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

History

Blundell's has a distinguished history. It was founded in 1604 through the bequest of a Peter Blundell, one of the wealthiest of Elizabethan merchants. He left money and lands for a boys' school in his home town to 'maintain sound learning and true religion'. Generous lands were provided in Tiverton and South Devon for its maintenance and Blundell's executors established links between the School and Balliol College, Oxford and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, which survive to this day.

The 21st Century School

Blundell's is an independent co-educational day and boarding school for ages 11 to 18. There are over 600 pupils on the roll (346 boys, 257 girls); the majority are from the West Country but some come from farther afield in the UK and around 10% are international pupils. The School is situated on the outskirts of the market town of Tiverton and, with the adjacent Prep School, is set in 90 acres of rolling Devon countryside. It is easily accessible via the M5 and the train journey to London is 2 hours. The M5 junction 27 and Tiverton Parkway station are both six minutes away.

The outstanding characteristic of Blundellians is their positive 'can-do' attitude. The main finding of the 2019 Independent Schools Inspectorate report was that the quality of our pupils' academic and other achievements is "excellent" and the quality of our pupils' personal development is also "excellent". It also noted that "Pupils throughout the school demonstrate strong development of self-confidence and self-awareness, at levels appropriate to or, for many, beyond their age. Pupils showed their justifiable pride in their own and in others' achievements, without appearing in the least arrogant or excessively competitive."

The School's Aims and Values

Blundell's aims to provide a rounded education for the whole person, in mind, body and spirit, promoting the essential values of Character, Social Responsibility and Independence to enable pupils to pursue Excellence in every area with a sense of Adventure about their future.

These values are in accordance with the wishes of the School's founder Peter Blundell and expressed in the School's long-held belief: 'There are two gifts we can give our children, the first is roots and the second is wings'

Roots

- To develop depth and breadth of character, which will encourage resilience, optimism, self-control and generosity within the rich Christian values of the School
- To develop a sense of social responsibility and for each individual to be mindful of their role in the Blundell's community, in society at large and in the global environment, thus encouraging consideration, mindfulness and respect
- To develop independence, with each pupil taking responsibility for their own growth and development and so demonstrate initiative, take ownership and feel satisfaction in what is achieved

Wings

- To pursue excellence, aspiring to do everything as well as it can be done, which will develop a sense of justifiable pride and ambition
- To develop confidence and a sense of adventure which will foster courage, curiosity and enterprise and originality

The Physics Department

In the Physics department we aim to inspire pupils to gain an inherent appreciation for discovery and applying the scientific process to understand the world around them. We cater for all abilities with the only key requirement to studying at any level is a motivation and commitment to learn. Through the excellent teaching of a strong and exciting Physics staff team, supported by a comprehensive and ever-growing array of equipment, we add academic value at all key stages which has been confirmed

at GCSE and A-level against baseline data. Whilst catering for all, we also nurture and empower the highest performers to excel. We are an academically ambitious department and run a substantial Olympiad program with numerous Gold awards in the Physics Olympiads and other awards at all levels, including recent representation in the UK Astrophysics Olympiad Team. We consistently help pupils get into top universities and each year have a sizeable group of Oxbridge applicants which we provide significant training in preparation for the process, showing a good and ever improving conversion to offers.

Aside to the Olympiad, we run an expansive enrichment program with events varying from lunchtime online university lectures, trips to the Medical Physics department of Exeter's main hospital and the annual CERN weekend away to Geneva. We have also seen significant successes in a variety of corporate sponsored national competitions over the last few years.

In Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) we follow the AQA "Activate" single Physics syllabus, teaching the sciences as separate subjects. However, we are not bound to any strict content list and are in the process of developing a more project-based learning scheme, an example being the recent success of "Mission to Mars" project. From Year 9 pupils start to study material for the Edexcel GCSE, again teaching and examining all the sciences separately.

At A-level we study the AQA syllabus working towards the practical certificate over the two years and completing the three exams at the end. We consistently have a relatively large A-level cohort of 20-30 pupils but work to keep individual class numbers low.

We have a dedicated full-time Physics technician and utilise an online booking system for equipment. As mentioned, our equipment stores are very well stocked and we have an appropriate budget to allow further continuous development and realise exciting new ideas.

Job Description

Curriculum

- To be accountable to the Head of Science and Deputy Head (Academic).
- Attend the regular meetings of the HoDs committee and play a part in its work.
- Attend regular Heads of Sciences meetings with the Head of Science, Head of Chemistry and Head of Biology and play a part in the development of Science Department policies.
- Determine the aims and the objectives of the department and review them to ensure compatibility with those of the school.
- Produce and update suitable schemes of work.
- Monitor teaching, marking and learning within the department, in accordance with the school policy.
- Monitor and record the assessment and progress of the pupils with the aim of maximising their academic potential.
- Liaise with the EAL and Learning Support Departments as appropriate.
- Teach throughout the school; from Year 7 to A-level.
- To help in the development and delivery of the Physics/Science curriculum in Blundell's Preparatory School

Supervision of staff

- Inspire your departmental team, drive forward the intellectual enthusiasm of both staff and pupils, and ensure the department is well represented at events such as the Year 11 Academic Fair, Open Days and Parents' Meetings.
- Be familiar with external academic developments (e.g. changes to the national educational framework) and their implications, and communicate these to the department.
- Promote academic enrichment within your department and in cross-curricular partnership where appropriate.
- Play a part in
 - The appointment, induction and training of new staff.
 - Disciplinary support.
 - INSET and professional development.
 - The appraisal system.
- Be responsible for the internal reporting by the department.

Organisation of the department.

- Hold regular, minuted, departmental meetings.
- Maintain an up-to-date Departmental Handbook.
- Be responsible for producing an annual departmental development plan.
- Be responsible for finance and resource control.
- Deploy teachers – consistent with their strengths and weaknesses, bearing in mind career developments and needs of the school.
- Play a part in the allocation of pupils to sets/teaching groups.
- Organise teaching resources.
- Carry out specific duties relating to Health and Safety, where appropriate, according to the school policy and Science Department policy.
- Be responsible for the setting, assessment and publication of results of internal exams, including public exam result reporting to the Head.
- Be responsible for checking the accuracy of public examination entries.
- Create exam papers for entrance examinations (11+, 13+ 16+).
- To maintain and refresh the department pages of the school website.
- Promote academic enrichment opportunities

Communication

- With the Head of Science about science department related issues.
- With House Parents about individual pupils.
- With pupils' parents where appropriate.
- With the Head of Science and Deputy Head (Academic) for staffing, options, timetabling etc.
- With exam boards.
- With outside contacts (e.g. speakers, universities etc).
- Be an active member of the Canford Group Head of Physics forum

Blundell's School Teaching Policy

Aims:

To foster in pupils an enthusiasm for study, application of intellectual, physical or creative effort and the ability to think and learn for themselves;

To enable pupils to acquire new knowledge understanding and skills in the subjects taught;

To support and encourage pupil reflection about their academic progress and enable them to demonstrate achievement.

Teachers will:

- Show a clear command of the subject areas which they teach;
- Organise teaching programmes which meet curricular demands and pupils' needs;
- Plan lessons carefully, making their aims and objectives clear to pupils;
- Have high expectations of all pupils, challenging their knowledge and understandings and encouraging and enabling them to meet their full potential;
- Stimulate and maintain pupils' interest by a range of methods and their own enthusiasm;
- Use data on pupils' baseline to inform their teaching;
- Use personalised teaching strategies where appropriate to meet the needs of pupils of different abilities, including the most able, pupils for whom English is not their first language or those who have learning difficulties. Central lists of pupils and their particular learning requirements should be referred to;
- Set appropriate homework and assess and feedback to pupils on their work regularly and effectively, according to agreed standards and policies (see Marking and Assessment Policy)
- Manage pupils well, to maintain good order and discipline within the classroom;
- Develop good relationships with pupils through a balance of firmness and friendliness;
- Insist on punctuality in attending lessons and set a good example themselves;
- Provide a teaching environment which is bright, orderly and interesting. Classroom decoration should be updated frequently and there should be regular displays of pupils' work;
- Provide fair, full and accurate feedback to pupils, parents, tutors and Houseparents via the reporting systems, as well as more regular communication where appropriate for individuals;
- Contribute to the regular progress meetings which are an important forum for sharing feedback on pupils' progress and agreeing strategies to enhance their performance;
- Be ready to ask for advice and to share difficulties in teaching with other colleagues;
- Take opportunities to observe other colleagues and share good practice in teaching.