

JOB TITLE: **HEAD OF POLITICS**

REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Role commences: **September 2024**





REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Alderman Henry Smith founded Reigate Grammar School in 1675. For over 345 years, young people have been educated on the same site, in the heart of Reigate, a historic market town in the east of Surrey at the foothills of the North Downs in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

RGS is a leading HMC independent co-educational day school. It is a highly successful, happy and exciting school, which aims to provide a broad and balanced education to boys and girls that will prepare them for the modern world. The school song, *To Be a Pilgrim*, reminds our students that they are on a journey of noble purpose, to have an impact and to make the world a better place. We aim to educate the whole child and offer a broad range of experiences for all. We are an inclusive school and, built upon the vision of our founder, are committed to social mobility and the provision of bursaries through wider access and a supportive Reigatian community.

“Happy Kids Great Results” Good Schools Guide 2019

Reigate Grammar School caters for over 1050 students aged 11 to 18. Another 600 students are educated at Reigate St Mary's Preparatory and Choir School and Chinthurst School, RGS's junior and nursery schools – both recently shortlisted for UK Independent Prep School of the Year. RGS offers the very best academic education with equal prominence placed on the arts, sport and a rich extra-curricular programme. RGS has a distinctive educational philosophy and a strong ethos of pastoral care underpinning a well-rounded education. The House system has some clearly defined aims: for everyone to feel part of a team; to allow leadership to be nurtured; talent to shine; confidence to surge; teamwork to flourish; and competitive spirit to develop. In the school's academic culture of intellectual freedom, the structure of the curriculum means that students receive a strong grounding in core subjects but

can elect to pursue any area of interest. In the elective curriculum, one student may learn to trade stocks while another deepens their understanding of French literature. It is a challenging and balanced education, equipping students for the opportunities and demands of their future lives and allowing them to explore their personal passions.

The first line of the school's most recent ISI report asserts that 'the quality of the students' achievements and learning is exceptional': the first co-ed day school to achieve this rare accolade. RGS' approach to teaching and learning melds expert teaching knowledge with a modern, innovative approach to pedagogy with a judicious use of technology. Inspirational and personalised teaching and learning is at the centre of the vision and requires expert teachers. The school is one of a small number of world-class schools to have been a global pioneer in High Performance Learning, focusing on the development of global citizens, advanced performers and enterprising learners.

Outcomes at RGS are world-class with 86% of GCSE entries graded at 9-7 in 2023. A Level results are equally impressive, with over 95% of entries graded A* to B. 96% of our A Level students went on to Oxbridge, Russell Group and other top universities and medical schools. In 2019, RGS was named Independent School of the Year for Wellbeing and Pastoral Care at the TES Awards – the most important element of any great education – and also received the award of School of the Year for Community Outreach; in 2020 RGS was named Public School of the Year 2020-2021 by Tatler, the school Oscars; in 2021 RGS was named School of the Year in the UK Social Mobility Awards; and in 2023 RGS is a finalist in the Independent School of the Year Awards for Contribution to Social Mobility.

Shaun Fenton, Headmaster, acknowledged as one of the outstanding educational leaders in this country, was elected Chairman of HMC in 2018-2019 and most recently awarded an OBE by Her Majesty the Queen for Services to Education.





JOB DESCRIPTION

THE POLITICS DEPARTMENT

Politics is a popular option at Reigate Grammar School. The students have achieved excellent examination results, and last year 44% gained an A* grade, whilst 89% gained A*-A and 100% gained A* to B. Several students each year go on to read Politics or combined Politics honours courses at university, including at Oxbridge.

In addition to the Head of Department, there are other members of the department who teach a part timetable of Politics alongside History. We follow the Edexcel specification, teaching Government and Politics of the UK, Comparative Politics (looking at the politics of the USA), and Political Ideas. It is expected that the person appointed will be willing to teach all parts of the course.

The department is based in a modern part of the school, a base it shares with History. We are well resourced with books and journals and all students have their own devices.

There is a lively joint History and Politics society run by the students themselves and guest speakers have been invited each year. In addition, the department runs an annual trip to Parliament and biennial trip to Washington and New York.

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

It is expected that the successful candidate will also be able to teach a part timetable of History.

All students study History in the Lower School (Years 7 and 8) in mixed ability groups including Medieval Realms, The Renaissance and Reformation, Tudor and Stuart England and Britain 1750 – 1914 and World War I.

History is the most popular option subject at GCSE (about 80% of pupils choose History). Results have been excellent in recent years with over 71% achieving level 8/9 at GCSE and over 46% gaining at A* at A Level in 2023.

For GCSE we follow the AQA syllabus with options on Germany, International Relations, Power and the People, and Elizabeth I. In the Sixth Form again we follow the AQA specification and teach 19th and 20th century Russia, Religious Conflict in 16th century England, and the growth of US Civil Rights. The department runs a variety of study visits for different year groups.

THE POST

Heads of Department at Reigate Grammar School are responsible to the Headmaster for the teaching and learning of their subject throughout the school. This includes responsibility for:

- creating, maintaining and supporting the departmental team through effective leadership and management;
- planning and delivering the curriculum, including schemes of work, assessment and reporting;
- monitoring and improving the quality of teaching and learning within the department, and achieving the highest possible examination results for all students;
- monitoring the progress of pupils studying the subject;
- overseeing the work of the other members of the department (including support staff as appropriate);
- regularly holding minuted departmental meetings;
- managing the resources of the department;
- ensuring the Health and Safety of both staff and students through safe working practices;
- contributing to the shaping of policies through Heads of Department meetings and any other working groups;
- attending Trinity Group meetings and developing relationships with other schools;
- advising the Headmaster on the appointment of staff and inducting new staff.

The successful candidate will hold a relevant degree from a good university and be able to demonstrate a high level of subject expertise, the highest academic standards and the ability to enthuse students of all ages. A teaching qualification and experience of the UK education system are desirable.

All staff are actively involved in the co-curricular life of the school, and we encourage staff to share their passions with our pupils. Applications are especially welcome from staff who are able to support with a range of Outdoor Education programmes (including CCF and DofE), MUN, Public Speaking, Enterprise, or our Sport (especially Netball and Swimming), as well as from colleagues showing a commitment to lead and contribute to other specific areas of our extensive co-curricular programme.



FURTHER INFORMATION

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Reigate Grammar School has its own salary scale which is substantially above the national scales.
- All teaching staff are automatically members of the pension scheme run by the Teachers' Pensions Agency which is transferable between all UK schools.
- Children of teaching staff may be educated at Reigate Grammar School, Reigate St Mary's Preparatory and Choir School or Chinthurst School at substantially reduced rates. Candidates are invited to enquire about this at interview.
- Lunch is provided free of charge during term time.
- All staff have access to the school swimming pool and fitness room at designated times, free of charge.
- Successful applicants will be required to make an enhanced disclosure by the Disclosure and Barring Services and to complete an online Pre-Placement Medical Questionnaire.
- All shortlisted candidates will be required to complete a **Suitability to work with children: self-declaration form**. This form must be completed, signed and returned to HR prior to the interview taking place.

SAFEGUARDING

This role will involve contact with children. Reigate Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All applicants should read the school's safeguarding policy (available on our website) and are required to declare any criminal convictions, cautions or disciplinary proceedings related to young people. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Services. Full details are given on the application form.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Reigate Grammar School is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from appropriately qualified persons from all backgrounds. We are dedicated to creating and sustaining an environment that values individuality and

difference and celebrates the diversity of both staff and pupils by fostering perseverance, tolerance and integrity. We believe in equal opportunity for everyone, irrespective of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation or socio-economic background. Candidates will be assessed against relevant criteria only (i.e. skills, qualifications, abilities, experience) in selection and recruitment. We know that more diverse teams are stronger teams, and that the more inclusive we are, the more our staff and pupils will feel a sense of belonging and will thrive.

APPLICATIONS

Applicants are asked to complete the Teaching Application Form and Supplementary Form (which are also available on our website) and send them with a supporting statement addressed to the Headmaster as soon as possible and by **Monday 22 April 2024, 9.00am** at the latest. Please do not send a separate curriculum vitae. Applications will be considered in the order in which they are received, and the school reserves the right to make an appointment prior to the closing date. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview.

Within your application letter we would be grateful if you could indicate where you saw this position, whether it was from the TES or another source.

Applications should be addressed to The Headmaster and sent (by letter or by email) to the address below.

Mrs Dawn Holmes
Head of Human Resources
Reigate Grammar School
Reigate Road, Reigate, RH2 0QS

01737 222231

hr@reigategrammar.org | www.reigategrammar.org

The post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the School is therefore permitted to ask job applicants to declare all convictions and cautions (including those which are spent unless they are protected under the DBS filtering rules) in order to assess their suitability to work with children.



SCHOOL LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

The RGS campus is on its original 1675 site in the historic market town of Reigate within an area of outstanding natural beauty. Adjacent to junction 8 of the M25, the school is also easily accessible from central London by train.

The school benefits from excellent facilities, including:

- A new £8m Sixth Form and Learning Resource Centre at the heart of the campus
- Drama studios and Music school
- Swimming pool
- 32 acres of sports ground with two floodlit all-weather hockey pitches, rugby, cricket and football pitches

The school is currently within the planning phase for the construction and development of a state-of-the-art sports centre on the town centre campus.

DIRECTIONS:

By Road

Reigate Grammar School and Reigate St Mary's Preparatory and Choir School are situated on the south side of the A25 about a quarter of a mile east of Reigate town centre, between Reigate and Redhill.

RGS postcode RH2 0QS
 RSM postcode RH2 7RN

Chinthurst School is situated in Tadworth, just north of junction 8 of the M25 close to the A217

Postcode KT20 5QZ

By rail

The school is approximately ten minutes' walk from Reigate station which is well served by direct trains from London Victoria, East Croydon, Guildford and Dorking. Frequent connections to Redhill station (about one mile away) allow access to Crawley, Horsham and towns to the south along with Nutfield, Godstone and Tonbridge to the east.

WHAT3WORDS

Main Reception: cabin.fire.brave

