

JOB TITLE: **SCIENCE TECHNICIAN**

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

Science technicians have an essential role in science education at Reigate Grammar School, where the sciences are amongst the most popular and successful subjects. All students study our bespoke practical, focused, combined science course in the Lower School (Years 7/8), followed by all three sciences up to the end of the Fifth Form (Year 11) when large numbers continue to A Level or BTEC Applied Science courses. The three departments share twenty-six teachers and six technicians between them and are housed in a purpose-built facility at one end of the school site. There are fourteen laboratories, five prep rooms and a technician office, all with extensive resources.

Our technician team ensures that a wide range of apparatus and materials are available, appropriately maintained and stored effectively. In addition, they work closely with the teaching staff to support innovations within the department. Science technicians are encouraged to develop practical protocols and support students to learn key practical skills. This may include direct support to practical activities, aiding staff in lessons and offering advice to students.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsibility for the technical services within the department.
- Keeping prep rooms, working areas and storage rooms tidy.
- Preparing, setting out and clearing away apparatus, chemicals (making up solutions), textbooks, ICT and audio-visual resources for classes.
- Preparing experiments and demonstrations, and trialling new activities and core practical experiments.
- Providing on-call attention to hazardous spills, broken glassware and other incidents.
- Appropriate disposal of waste materials.
- Auditing equipment and supplies and advising the Heads of Department of impending shortfalls.
- Following safety procedures within the guidelines of COSHH regulations and CLEAPSS advice.
- Prepare and follow risk assessments for experiments, researching hazards and experimental methods where necessary. Liaising with the technician team and Heads of Science on improvements to safety.

- Liaising with other members of the technician team to keep services running smoothly and helping the other technicians, as appropriate, with their workload.
- Servicing the laboratories.
- Maintaining class sets of equipment in each laboratory.
- Updating departmental notice board displays periodically.
- Displaying current information about clubs, lectures etc.
- Maintaining appropriate sets of textbooks.
- Preparing, setting out, assisting at and clearing away equipment and displays for open mornings and other outreach school activities.
- Preparing equipment for, and accompanying, field trips and visits.
- Preparing, clearing up and assisting with science enrichment activities such as lunchtime Science clubs, Science week workshops and CREST awards.
- To contribute to administrative aspects of department management.
- Be a qualified first aider. Training will be provided if needed.

These lists are not exhaustive, and duties change according to the needs of the department.

RGS science technicians need to be well motivated, flexible and able to work cooperatively as part of a team. This post requires initiative, excellent communication skills and the ability to work both independently, as well as with fellow technicians, teaching staff and students. Confidence using Microsoft office software is advantageous.

The successful candidate will work collaboratively with the technician team to support all three sciences. Experience in chemistry or physics practical preparation, including at A Level, would be particularly desirable. Please indicate relevant experience and/or knowledge of biology, chemistry or physics in your application. We also welcome contributions to the wider life of the school and invite candidates to discuss their interests and experience at interview. Training will be provided as required.



FURTHER INFORMATION

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Non-teaching staff at Reigate Grammar School are remunerated according to our own salary scales. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.
- Employees are entitled to join the School's relevant workplace pension scheme.
- 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 to 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.

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.

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 **Support Staff Application Form and Supplementary Form** (which are also available on our website) and send them with a supporting statement together with a CV addressed to Dawn Holmes as soon as possible and by **Thursday 23 May 2024, 9.00am** at the latest. 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.

Reigate Grammar School is committed to ensuring that the privacy of applicants and employees is protected. The School Privacy Notice is available on the school website and is included in the application pack and sets out how the school uses and protects any personally identifiable information that is collected as part of the recruitment process.

Within your application letter we would be grateful if could indicate where you saw this position, whether it was from the TES Publications, the TES Online, Indeed or Fish4Jobs or another source.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview. Interviews with senior staff will explore each candidate's ability to perform the duties of the post, subject knowledge, ability to relate appropriately to pupils and colleagues, organisational and pastoral skills, and willingness to contribute to the school community.

Applications should be addressed to the Head of Human Resource and sent (by letter or by email) to:

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

01737 222231

hr@reigategrammar.org | reigategrammar.org



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

