



Sydenham
High School

G D S T
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Brief for the position of

Teacher of Physics

Sydenham High School GDST





Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the position of Head of Physics at Sydenham High School. This is an excellent opportunity for an innovative, enthusiastic classroom practitioner to join our popular and successful Physics and Science Department. Physics is a popular subject at Sydenham, with pleasing results at A Level.

Sydenham High is a selective school with a mission to ensure that every girl reaches her full academic potential. We offer a rich and diverse curriculum, alongside outstanding enrichment opportunities outside of lessons, enabling our students to develop the skills and personal attributes to prepare them for the challenges and opportunities of an ever-changing society.

We are forward thinking and innovative, looking to provide an outstanding education to our young people as well as the very best in pastoral care. Our purpose is to empower every girl to forge her own path with courage and without limits. This is evidenced in our Careers Programme and the broad range of careers-focussed events on offer, as well as in our leavers' wide-ranging higher education and future pathways.

Successful applicants will have a good honours degree in Physics, and ideally experience in teaching the subject from Key Stages 3-5. Above all, they will be a passionate individual with high ambitions for our students, and strongly motivated to make themselves an active part of our thriving community.

I very much look forward to meeting you,

Ms Antonia Geldeard
Head



Our school

Sydenham High School, was founded in 1887 by four pioneering women, becoming one of the last schools to be opened by the Girls' Public Day School Trust. In 1934 the school transferred to its current site in the leafy suburbs of South East London. Sydenham High prides itself on enriching young minds in a way that will endure a lifetime. The School's original Anglo Saxon motto, 'Nyle ye drede', means 'fear nothing' and girls are continually encouraged to have a 'can do' approach to all they do. Sydenham High is selective but diverse, welcoming girls with wide-ranging abilities, talents and backgrounds into a close community that is large enough to offer choice and flexibility but compact enough to ensure that no girl is overlooked.

The Girls' Day School Trust

The Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) is a leading family of independent girls' schools in the UK, with 23 fee-paying schools and two academies. A registered charity, it has 19,000 students, 4,000 staff and a network of 70,000 alumnae.

GDST schools share an ethos and heritage of girls-only education and are members of a unique network which adds value to each school, student and member of staff. Networking opportunities across the Trust enable staff to share best practice and develop initiatives that benefit all our schools and students. In addition to supporting the work of individual schools in supplying excellent induction and development opportunities for staff, the GDST network provides access to an extensive training programme. This includes development opportunities (including a Middle Leaders' Development Programme and Aspiring Leaders Programme) and grants for individual courses of study.



Site and facilities

Ongoing investment by the GDST has seen the school's facilities continue to expand. A new Design Technology and Innovation Building alongside a new Sixth Form Centre is planned to open in Summer 2025. A Performing Arts Centre was opened in 2006, comprising a 90-seat Recital Hall and the 152-seat Westwood Theatre, and the assembly hall was renamed Longton Hall and refitted to provide concert and performance facilities. There are specialist features for the teaching of Science, IT, Music, Art and Design and Technology. Sports facilities include an indoor sports centre, gym, large all-weather pitch and a 7.5 acre sports ground in Lower Sydenham. The current Sixth Form centre has been refurbished to include a generous common room, study rooms and classrooms. In 2014 the historic dining hall was refurbished and extended to include a glass orangery, new serving area and new state-of-the-art kitchens.

The Prep School is home to 240 pupils from the age of 4 to 11. It is based in an attractive large Edwardian family house with light and spacious purpose-built modern additions. The school is set within its own attractive grounds, five minutes' walk from the Senior School and takes full advantage of the Senior School facilities. The personalised approach allows each girl to develop at her own pace. Most girls in the Prep School move into the Senior School.

The Senior School has over 515 pupils and our aim is to develop girls as independent learners, who take responsibility for their own learning. The curriculum offered at each stage allows the exploration of personal learning and thinking skills that underpin not just academic but lifelong success.

For more information about Sydenham High School please visit:
www.sydenhamhighschool.gdst.net.



Our purpose

We aim to inspire the future generations of creators, independent thinkers and trailblazers. We open eyes and hearts by educating the whole person: to balance mind, body and soul. Our diversity of academic and enrichment opportunities enables every girl to forge her own path, strive to be her best and excel. We seek to empower every girl to discover and nurture her unique talents whether in the classroom, the laboratory, the library, the studio, the field, the water, the community or beyond.

We believe that educating the whole person leads to happy, confident and courageous children who flourish and make a positive difference to their community.

Our values

Courage and character: With our school motto at the fore, ('Nyle ye drede', 'Fear nothing'), we aim to foster in every girl the strength of character and courage to discover and pursue her own path.

Curiosity for learning: We seek to empower every girl to learn without limits, cultivating an intellectual and creative mindset through an inspiring and joyful approach to education.

Culture of kindness: We focus on developing a happy and respectful community with strong relationships, prioritising every child's wellbeing and celebrating diversity.

Generosity of spirit: We aspire to be outward looking, giving back, taking on leadership and having a positive impact.

"Pupils develop high levels of self-confidence and the inner strength needed to succeed, as a result of an understanding not to fear failure" - ISI, 2020

The Role **Teacher of Physics**

Sydenham High School is seeking to appoint a dynamic, creative and innovative Physics Teacher within our popular and successful Physics and Science Department.

The Science Department at Sydenham High is a dynamic and strong department comprising a mixture of full-time and part-time members of staff, some of whom have other responsibilities in the school. In a selective school, it is a pleasure to stimulate and inspire the pupils' bright and alert minds, and Physics is a popular subject with pleasing numbers at A Level. The members of the Department therefore employ a variety of teaching methods in order to meet the aim of encouraging every girl to find success, enjoyment and satisfaction in their studies. There are two dedicated Physics laboratories which were refurbished in 2023 to include Clevertouch boards and flexible teaching and learning spaces, located next to the Physics prep room. The Science Department comprises of a dedicated and very experienced team, who share a vibrant Science Office.

This is an excellent opportunity for a dynamic classroom practitioner with proficiency in teaching Physics from KS3 to KS5, to contribute to the academic and personal development of our pupils. You will have an innovative understanding of teaching and learning and you will have high expectations of all pupils' achievements. Ideally the candidate will show considerable initiative and be prepared to innovate both in the classroom and in the field. Staff are expected to be digitally literate and are encouraged to continue to develop their professional skills as well as keep abreast of current pedagogy.

The start date for this role is September 2024.



The Role of Teacher of Physics

Accountable to: Head of Physics

Teaching

Having regard to the curriculum for the school:

- Planning and preparing courses and lessons
- Teaching, according to their educational needs, the pupils assigned to her/him, including the setting and marking of work to be carried out by the pupils in school and elsewhere
- Assessing, recording and reporting on the development, progress and attainment of pupils
- Organising and participating in co-curricular activities

Other activities

- Promoting the general progress and well-being of individual pupils and of any class or group of pupils assigned to her/him
- Providing guidance and advice to pupils on educational and social matters and on their further education and future careers, including information about sources of more expert advice on specific questions; making relevant records and reports; making records of and reports on the personal and social needs of pupils
- Communicating and consulting with the parents of pupils as directed by the Head
- Attending assemblies, registering the attendance of pupils and supervising pupils, whether these duties are to be performed before, during or after school sessions
- Communicating and co-operating with persons or bodies outside the school
- Participating in meetings arranged for any of the purposes described above
- A willingness to participate in and organise trips, both day and residential
- Contributing, wherever appropriate, to the wider life of the school

Assessment and reports

- Providing or contributing to oral and written assessments, reports and references relating to individual pupils and groups of pupils

Educational methods

- Advising and co-operating with the Head and other teachers on the preparation and

development of courses of study, teaching materials, teaching programmes, methods of teaching and assessment and pastoral arrangements

Discipline, health and safety

- Maintaining good order and discipline among the pupils and safeguarding their health and safety both when they are authorised to be on the school premises and when they are engaged in authorised school activities elsewhere

Staff meetings

- Participating in meetings at the school which relate to the curriculum for the school or the administration or organisation of the school, including pastoral arrangements

Cover

- Supervising and, so far as practicable, teaching any pupils whose teacher is not available to teach them

Public examinations

- Participating in arrangements for preparing pupils for public examinations and in assessing pupils for the purposes of such examinations; recording and reporting such assessments; and participating in arrangements for pupils' presentation for and supervision during such examinations in accordance with both internal and external regulations

Administration

- Participating in administrative and organisational tasks related to such duties as are described above, including the management or supervision of persons providing support for the teachers in the school and the ordering and allocation of equipment and materials

The Role **Teacher of Physics**

General Requirements

All staff are expected to:

- Work towards and support the school vision and the current school objectives outlined in the School Development Plan
- Contribute to the school's programme of extra-curricular activities
- Support and contribute to the school's responsibility for safeguarding students
- Work within the school's health and safety policy to ensure a safe working environment for staff, students and visitors
- Work within the GDST's Diversity Policy to promote equality of opportunity for all students and staff, both current and prospective
- Maintain high professional standards of attendance, punctuality, appearance, conduct and positive, courteous relations with students, parents and colleagues
- Engage actively in the performance review process
- Adhere to policies as set out in the GDST Council Regulations, notes of guidance and GDST circulars
- Undertake other reasonable duties related to the job purpose required from time to time

This job description should be seen as enabling rather than restrictive and will be subject to regular review.



Person Specification **Teacher of Physics**

Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent interpersonal skills including the ability to relate well to people on all levels• Ability to deliver inspiring, dynamic, engaging and aspirational lessons• Teamwork: the ability to work collaboratively with others• Communication skills: the ability to make points clearly and understand the views of others• Self-management skills: the ability to plan time effectively and organise oneself well
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Knowledge Base	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent professional knowledge and understanding• Excellent subject knowledge• Understanding of national and examination curricular requirements of the subject• Up to date with professional developments in the subject and other aspects of education
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Qualifications/ Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A good honours degree• Qualified teacher status/PGCE• Post graduate qualifications - Masters degree/ post graduate diplomas desirable
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Professional Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience as a subject teacher from KS3-5• Experience of teaching A level and GCSE in the subject for at least 2 cycles• Experience of participating in or leading a whole school initiative desirable• Experience of organising or participating in extracurricular activities desirable
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Attitude/ approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to enthuse children and adults• Possess a positive attitude and approach to change and development• Enjoy rising to the challenges inherent in a school environment• Flexible and firm with the ability to know when to be either• Lifelong learner
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How to Apply **Teacher of Physics**

To apply, please go to

https://my.corehr.com/pls/gdstrecruit/erq_jobspec_version_4.jobspec?p_id=033027

to submit your application form and cover letter by **9am on Friday 2 February 2024**.

Starting salary will depend on the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package and a strong professional development programme.

These benefits include:

- Competitive salaries and pay progression
- Access to extensive professional development opportunities
- Training grants for qualifications
- Generous pension schemes
- Free school lunches
- Financial guidance and support
- Retail and lifestyle discounts
- A discount of up to 50% on fees for children at GDST schools

We reserve the right to interview at any point during the recruitment process, so early applications are encouraged. References for candidates invited to interview will be taken before the interview. Interviews will likely be held the week commencing 5 February 2024.

Sydenham High School and the GDST (Charity Registration No. 1026057) are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including online searches, checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

