
TEACHER OF ENGLISH

Contract Type: Full Time / Permanent
Required for: September 2025
Closing Date for applications: 10am, Monday 24th February 2025

This is an outstanding opportunity to join one of Oxfordshire's most successful schools. Wallingford School is an oversubscribed, 11-18 school with enthusiastic students, supportive staff and excellent facilities. We have an excellent reputation, enjoying strong support from parents and students, and a great relationship with the local community.

We are among the most successful schools in the country for progress in English and Maths. In 2024, 71% of our students achieved at least a grade 4 in English and Maths at GCSE, 54% achieved at least a grade 5 in English and Maths and 30% of all grades achieved were at Grade 7 or above. Vocational grades were similarly impressive, 78% of entries gained at least a Level 2 Pass and 22% at a Distinction or Distinction*. At KS5, our A Level students are consistently in the top 25% nationally for Value Added progress. In our most recent results, 53% of all entries gained A*- B grades and 23% of all entries gained A*- A. In Vocational qualifications, 44% of all entries gained at least a Distinction, with 19% gaining a Distinction*.

These results are great, but our school is about much more than just exams. We are an inclusive school which – as the only secondary school in the town – is determined to serve its local community well. Comprehensive school values are important to us. Students of all abilities thrive at Wallingford and we pride ourselves on giving students a chance who may not have had one at other schools.

Staff – both teaching and associate – are happy at Wallingford. Professional development is hugely important to us and our programme is varied but also bespoke to support individual needs and priorities. There are many opportunities for teachers to work collaboratively across the school. Our annual two-day Teaching and Learning Conference is the highlight of this programme. The successful applicant can expect to be very well supported in their professional development. Student attitudes and behaviour are excellent and are frequently commented upon by visitors as being so. It is an excellent place to work and we are committed to staff wellbeing and a healthy work-life balance for all our colleagues.

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

At KS4 our students consistently make progress that is above the national average in English. In 2024, 74% achieved at least a Grade 4 in English Language (progress significantly above the national average) and 62% achieved a Grade 5 or more.

We also have a number of students who continue their studies into KS5 with A Level English Literature. Last year, 92% of these students achieved A*-B grades.

Sending every young person into the world able and qualified

The English Department is a strong team of specialist teachers with excellent results at all levels and it is no coincidence that English is regularly cited as a “favourite” subject by students. You would be joining a team of passionate teachers who show all round ability and commitment; the department is truly collaborative, with shared practices and resources. In addition to our scheduled meetings, we facilitate fortnightly subject-knowledge CPD sessions where specialist knowledge is shared across the team. Meetings to scrutinise and moderate pupils’ work are used to improve our own practice, with regular reflection on teaching and learning a central aspect of life in the department. The department fosters an ambitious culture and holds high expectations of our students, both behaviourally and academically. We run regular trips and two residentials to encourage our students to foster a love of our subject.

We are a team of teachers who like and respect each other; there is a lot of support involved in our day-to-day work and in our participation in the wider life of the school. The English rooms and office are grouped together close to the staffroom, main office and photocopiers.

THE CURRICULUM

Key Stage 3

KS3 students are taught in mixed-ability groups. We all follow a central curriculum with centralised resources on the school portal for each unit to which staff are encouraged to contribute new ideas. This system encourages collaboration, cohesion and collective reflection on areas for improvement. Work is assessed through formative and summative assessment, focusing on the acquisition of key skills and knowledge that enhance student’s appreciation of the KS4 curriculum.

Key Stage 4

At KS4 we follow AQA specifications for English Language and English Literature, entering almost all pupils for both. Students have five lessons per week and, from Sept 2024, will be taught in a streamed system. Some students have interventions after school in small groups.

Key Stage 5

English Literature (for which we follow the Edexcel specification) has traditionally been a popular subject choice in the sixth-form. Students regularly comment that they enjoy the challenge and formulation of independent thought, gaining a deeper appreciation of the role of literary criticism in shaping their perspectives and argumentation, aided by regular discussion and debate.

SELECTION CRITERIA - English

The successful candidate will:

- Hold Qualified Teacher Status
- Have an Enhanced DBS Certificate
- Have the ability and quality to teach English across the age and ability range
- Be a good, enthusiastic team member
- Be a reflective practitioner, who has the potential to develop his/her own career further
- Have the ability to communicate effectively with staff, parents and students
- Have an unquenchable enthusiasm for English

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- Believe that students are capable of high standards, and expect them to achieve
- Has the capacity to develop our pupils both in English and beyond
- Enjoys working as part of a team and sharing expertise
- Be keen to contribute to the development of the department
- Have competent ICT skills

GENERAL DUTIES

At Merchant Taylors' Oxfordshire Academy Trust we pride ourselves on providing a safe and happy environment where young people can flourish and we want to send every young person into the world able and qualified to play their full part within it. This job description should be read in conjunction with the current School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document and the provisions of that document will apply to the post holder.

Merchant Taylors' Oxfordshire Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All successful candidates will be subject to Criminal Records Bureau checks along with other relevant employment checks.

You will be expected to carry out the professional duties of a teacher as outlined in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document currently in operation, or any subsequent legislation. The performance of all the duties and responsibilities shown below will be under the reasonable direction of the Headteacher, or other Senior Manager if appropriate, who will be mindful of his/her duty to ensure that the employee has a reasonable workload and sufficient support to carry out the duties of the post.

The successful candidate will be expected to be a form tutor and on Friday mornings help with the delivery of the school's PSHE programme. In addition to support from within the English team, newly appointed staff are able to benefit from the induction support programme. The role is suitable for experienced and recently qualified teachers and we will consider part-time requests.

TEACHERS PENSION DETAILS

The link for teaching staff to the Teachers' Pension website is:

<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/>

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Merchant Taylors' Oxfordshire Academy Trust employs teaching staff working at Wallingford School on the conditions of service contained in the General Terms and Conditions of Employment for Teaching Staff which can be found at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/teachers-conditions-employment>

Please see our privacy notice:

<http://www.wallingfordschool.com/index.php/documents/category/24-privacy-notice>

TO APPLY

Please complete the attached application form and email to recruit@wallingfordschool.com

We look forward to receiving your application

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