



PALMERS GREEN
HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHER OF ENGLISH CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

INTRODUCTION

Palmers Green High School (PGHS) seeks to appoint a well-qualified, enthusiastic and inspirational teacher to join our dynamic and successful English Department.

This is an exciting opportunity for a talented and committed teacher to join a school works collaboratively to get the very best from all pupils. The successful candidate will teach English across the age range in the Senior School.

In addition to curriculum teaching, the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the school's extensive range of extracurricular activities before school, at lunchtimes and after school.

The post is currently available as a 0.6 timetable (3 days) commitment. The salary is in accordance with the PGHS Scale.

The closing date for applications is Monday 29th April at 12 noon. Interviews will take place during the week commencing 6th May. The school reserves the right to interview suitable candidates before the closing date so early applications are encouraged.

THE SCHOOL

Founded in 1905 by Miss Alice Hum, a Quaker, Palmers Green High School is unique in the North London area because it is a small selective school providing challenging and stimulating educational opportunities for approximately 300 girls aged 3-16 from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds.

The school's motto "By Love Serve One Another" was set by its founder and, whilst Miss Hum was a Quaker, the school has no official religious affiliation, although it celebrates Founder's Day and Christmas with services held at the church of St John The Evangelist on Bourne Hill, where some PGHS lessons were taught during World War II when Keble Preparatory School for Boys had to share the main PGHS site in Hoppers Road.

Girls from Reception to Year 11 are taught on the main school site, situated in a residential road in Winchmore Hill. The PGHS Nursery for 3-4 year olds is situated in Bush Hill Park, some 10 minutes' drive from the main school. This section of the school is housed in a purpose-designed single storey building, which was originally a Plymouth Brethren Meeting House.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

You will be teaching bright, interested and hard-working pupils in small classes in an academically selective girls' independent school.



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In January 2022, ISI carried out a Focused Compliance and Educational Quality inspection and reported that PGHS was fully compliant and graded the Educational Quality of the school as excellent. The school has an outstanding record of academic success in public examinations. In 2023, the school's overall percentage of GCSEs A*/9/8 grades was a magnificent 41% and A*/9 to A/7 a fantastic 69%, placing our pupils amongst the top performers in the country.

ENGLISH AT PGHS

The post of Teacher of English offers an exciting opportunity for the successful candidate to build upon the current popularity and success of the subject across the Senior School. Current facilities include well-equipped teaching rooms with integrated interactive digital equipment.

The English Department currently has three members of teaching staff: the Head of English, a part-time English teacher and the Head of Drama who teaches part of her timetable in the English department.

There are two teaching groups per year for English. Year 10 and Year 11 prepare for Pearson EdExcel IGCSE English Language and English Literature. Class sizes are small with an average of fourteen pupils per teaching group.

Academic achievement at GCSE is excellent The English results from 2019 to 2023 were:

| English Language | 9-7% | 9-6% | English Literature | 9-7% | 9-6% |
|------------------|------|------|--------------------|------|------|
| 2023 | 73 | 91 | 2023 | 77 | 86 |
| 2022 | 85 | 96 | 2022 | 85 | 96 |
| 2021 | 96 | 100 | 2021 | 96 | 96 |
| 2020 | 89 | 100 | 2020 | 83 | 100 |
| 2019 | 96 | 96 | 2019 | 84 | 96 |

The English department runs lunchtime and after school academic support sessions (surgeries) and offers extra-curricular activities such as debating, poetry club and book club. The department works closely with the School Librarian to organise events such as World Book Day, Carnegie Shadowing and a number of visiting authors and poets each year. Pupils are encouraged to enter national competitions and many have been successful in having their poems and short stories selected for publication.

At PGHS all staff members are expected to give generously of their time to provide individual guidance for pupils – especially those who are pursuing GCSE courses. This may include before, during and after school study sessions and occasional weekend workshops, when required.





THE POST

The successful candidate will be capable of delivering the English curriculum across the age range and ability spectrum with enthusiasm and expertise. They will be able to establish strong rapport with the pupils in order to harness their interest and encourage positive, active engagement. A high level of personal organisation and inter-personal skills is essential in order to liaise with colleagues, pupils, parents and the SMT.

The successful candidate will be an ambassador for the School and the department both within the School and in the wider community. They will benefit from opportunities offered through access to internal and external training and development.

The successful candidate may be expected to take a share in pastoral care acting as a tutor to a small group of pupils. They will also be expected to contribute to the extra-curricular programme.

PGHS welcomes applications from those currently teaching in either the maintained or independent sector.

The salary is in accordance with the PGHS Scale. The post is currently available as a 0.6 timetable (3 days) commitment.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate the following:

- A strong academic background, with at least a good honours degree and PGCE or equivalent;
- Awareness, understanding and, ideally, experience of issues relating to safeguarding the health, welfare and safety of children;
- High personal and professional standards;
- Positive working relationships with colleagues and the ability to work as a member of a team;
- Excellent time management and organisational skills;
- Ability to take responsibility and to show initiative;
- Ability to contribute to developing new teaching and learning strategies and willingness to contribute to the extra-curricular programme;
- Thorough knowledge of the subject and an interest in current developments;
- Ability to use a variety of teaching and learning styles;
- Ability to convey infectious enthusiasm for the subject;
- Experience in the use of ICT to support the teaching of English;
- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people;
- Motivation to work with children and young people;
- Positive attitude to managing behaviour in the classroom.





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THE PROCESS

Applicants are asked to complete the TES online Application Form. The closing date for applications is Monday 29th April at 12 noon. Interviews will take place during the week commencing 6th May. The school reserves the right to interview suitable candidates before the closing date so early applications are encouraged.

Palmers Green High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All successful candidates will be required to undertake a criminal record check via the DBS. The school will also undertake checks with past employers. It is an offence for a person barred from working with children to apply for this post.

Palmers Green High School is committed to Equal Opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



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