



## Part-time Teacher of Classics

### The school

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School was founded in 1509. A former Direct Grant Grammar School, it now caters for 930 students. The QEGS family consists of the Infant School (ages 4-7), the Junior School (7-11), Main School, (11-16) and Sixth Form (16-18). The school embarked on full co-education in September 2001 and 40% of our pupils are girls.

Since the demise of the Assisted Places Scheme we gradually became a smaller school and although what we do is good (see last inspection report from ISI) we decided that an alternative model would be better for securing our future and enabling us to remain true to our roots as a school for pupils of diverse backgrounds without charging fees. Thus we became a Free School in September 2014. This means the school will expand to its former size of 1200 over the next three years, creating many opportunities for increasing the breadth of our curriculum and extra-curricular activities. Our ethos will remain the same: a commitment to high aspirations for all and educating pupils so they become well-rounded, confident individuals who will go on to make a positive contribution to society.

The school enjoys a reputation for academic excellence. It continues to draw pupils from a wide area of north and east Lancashire. A number of students proceed to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and almost all the Upper Sixth go on to university.

Equally, the school remains committed to a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Facilities are excellent, including a fine sports hall, swimming pool and Sixth Form Centre. Investment in ICT has been particularly generous in recent years. Developments also include the opening in September 2002 of a new Modern Foreign Languages Laboratory and an Infant School. In 2008 the Holden Science laboratories were completely refurbished and all three sciences were brought under one roof. At the same time the Maths Department moved into its own dedicated and upgraded area, with its own ICT laboratory. In the Junior School, a new science laboratory was opened in 2005 whilst an ICT suite, shared with the Infant School, opened in 2006. In 2011 we completed, in partnership with the Football Foundation, a major extension to our Sports Hall at the Harrison Playing Fields. A new nursery, not part of the Free School, was opened in September 2012 admitting two-year-olds and babies from January 2013. Innovative and up-to-date in our approach, we nonetheless remain conscious of our long and fine tradition.

The successful candidate will be in sympathy with the aims and ethos of independent education (without fees) and will wish to participate in the extra-curricular life of the school.

Academic results have been good and are getting better. Typically a third of A levels are graded A\*/A, and in 2014, 20% gained A\* (48% A\*/A, 74% A\*-B, which was considerably better than any competitor school. The school is hugely oversubscribed (over 400 applicants for 85 places at Year 7 in 2014, and 2015).

**At Queen Elizabeth's we are committed to the safeguarding of children, as the successful applicant will be. Our safeguarding policy, which is regularly reviewed, is on our website. All offers of employment are conditional upon appropriate checks, including an enhanced DBS (formerly CRB) and Prohibition List check.**

### The department

The **Classics Department** makes an important and wide-ranging contribution to the QEGS curriculum and we are committed to supporting its continuing development.

#### Latin

Pupils begin their study of Latin at the beginning of Year 8. In Year 8, banding is introduced and pupils either follow Book I of the Cambridge Latin Course, or a Latin 'Lite' course. In Year 9, banding continues and pupils either continue with Latin into Book II of the Cambridge Latin Course or take Classical Civilisation, following a specially tailored course. Latin is optional at GCSE level but is well supported and results are consistently strong. Groups are small at Sixth Form level, enabling a scholarly and informal atmosphere.

## Classical Civilisation

All our pupils study Classical Civilisation in Year 7. At the heart of the course is a study of classical mythology and the Trojan War which embraces many other areas of the curriculum, including PSHE and language work. Currently, Classical Civilisation is an option available at both GCSE and Advanced level, being accessible and attractive to pupils across the ability range.

## Classical Greek

The School remains a staunch supporter of Ancient Greek, whenever there is demand, at both GCSE and Advanced level. Numbers are small but quality and enthusiasm are exemplary.

## Examinations and Specifications

At GCSE we currently follow WJEC specifications for Latin and AQA for Classical Civilisation. At Advanced level we study OCR Latin and AQA for Classical Civilisation.

## Facilities

The Department is located in a high-profile area of the School on the first floor of the Queen's Wing. There are two Classics classrooms, both equipped with data projectors to facilitate the delivery of the popular e-learning resources. We have access to the computer laboratories through a whole-school booking system. In this area there is also a well-stocked Classics bookstore and office. Examples of pupils' work adorn the classrooms and adjacent corridor.

## Classics Staff

There will be two full-time and one part-time Classics teachers in 2015 and complementary contributions are made by other colleagues, including one from the History Department and one from Modern Languages. The Department is a most enjoyable one within which to work, the emphasis being wholly on co-operation, conviviality and a collective commitment to enriching our pupils' experience of the classical world. We participate in the highly popular residential trip with our pupils to the Bay of Naples. Excursions to the theatre, conferences and open days are also undertaken when appropriate and we have competed regularly in the North West Latin and Greek Reading Competition in previous years.

## The post

The post arises due to our expansion. The School seeks to appoint a part-time (0.6 FTE) Teacher of Classics from **1<sup>st</sup> January 2016**. The post is suitable either for an experienced teacher or for a new entrant to the profession, for whom full induction procedures are in place. Applicants must have a strong academic background and an enthusiasm for Classics.

The successful candidate will be expected to teach a full Classics timetable across the 11-18 age range and a variety of mixed ability classes. An ability and willingness to teach Latin and Classical Civilisation to Advanced level are essential. The opportunity to teach Greek might be available for a suitable candidate, but is not an essential requirement of the post. QEGS has a pay scale marginally above CPS and remuneration will be set according to qualifications and experience.

QEGS has its own pay scale and salary will be set according to qualifications and experience and all teachers are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

## Applications

Applications must be submitted to the Headmaster, Mr S.A. Corns via email to [headmaster@qegsblackburn.com](mailto:headmaster@qegsblackburn.com) or by post. **These should take the form of a letter of no more than 2 A4 sides, accompanied by your *curriculum vitae* and a completed application form, available from our website, [www.qegsblackburn.com](http://www.qegsblackburn.com). These should be received by no later than noon on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015.**

All applications will be acknowledged. Interviews will be held in April and the appointment will be made as soon as possible thereafter. **Documentation to be brought to interview: passport, driving licence, A level, degree and PGCE certificates, two utility bills or statements and documentation confirming NI number.**