

Loreto Grammar School

A Specialist School in Science and Maths



HEAD OF CLASSICS

Information for candidates

January 2016

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**I am the Way
the Truth
and
The Life**

(Jesus Christ)

At Loreto Grammar School Altrincham, students, staff, parents and governors form a Catholic community. We aspire to create a caring, structured environment in which teaching and learning and the experience of school

- are characterised by joyful and loving service to others
- challenge each of us to realise our full potential in a spirit of joy and creativity
- encourage the pursuit of excellence
- uphold honesty, justice and mutual respect
- enable us to be questioning, independent learners and "seekers of truth"
- prepare each of us to meet with confidence the challenges of a changing world
- improve and enrich the life of the wider community and enable us to be an example of Christian values in the world as witnesses to God's Living Kingdom

Our values are centred in God, rooted in gospel values and derive from the vision of Mary Ward.

Love and speak the truth - at all times

(Mary Ward)

Loreto Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

January 2016

Post: HEAD OF CLASSICS
Salary: MPS /UPS + TLR 2A
Required for: SEPTEMBER 2016

Dear Applicant,

RE:

Thank you for your interest in the post of Head of Classics at Loreto Grammar School. I have provided below further details which I hope will give you ample information about the post and the school. I am seeking to appoint an outstanding colleague to this key leadership position, one who can teach at all Key Stages in this very effective department. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the wider school curriculum and support the ethos and values of this Catholic Girls Grammar School. This post is a permanent position.

The Department

The appointed colleague will join a flourishing Classics Department comprising two well-qualified and experienced teachers with further support from a third member of staff with delivery of Key Stage 3 Latin. Teaching is collaborative, with a regularly updated shared area for resources and planning.

Latin is introduced to all students in Year 7 on a fortnightly basis, and is then a second language option for girls from Year 8 onwards. The Cambridge Latin Course is followed throughout Key Stage 3, with Book 1 completed in Year 8 and Book 2 in Year 9. There are normally two Latin classes in each of these year groups. Both Latin and Classical Civilisation are offered as options at GCSE, AS and A Level with OCR specifications currently delivered in both subjects. Modules offered with Classical Civilisation include 'City Life in Athens, Homer's Odyssey, 'Community Life in Pompeii' and the Olympic Games at GCSE; Homer's Odyssey and Greek Tragedy at AS Level; and 'Greek Art and Architecture' and 'Virgil and the World of the Hero' at A Level.

Teaching within the department is interactive and varied, and there is a particular focus on the use of technology to support learning. Both classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards, and the CLC E-Learning Resource and website are regularly used to support delivery of the course. One lesson per fortnight is timetabled in an ICT room for Years 8-11.

The Department is committed to providing students with support and opportunities outside of the classroom and contributes to the academic and extra-curricular life of the whole school. Residential trips have alternated between Greece and Italy in recent years and have been very successful with 30-40 students participating in each. There have also been opportunities to attend theatre, cinema and museum trips, and summer schools are encouraged for students interested in further studies in Classics. Students will enter the North West Latin Reading Competition for the first time this year and Sixth Formers take on leadership roles by acting as subject mentors to support younger students. The Classics Department supports the School's mission statement, values and ethos both in the nature of relationships with students, classroom environments and in delivery of the curriculum.

Our results in 2015 were as follows:

	GCSE A*-A	GCSE A*-C	AS Level A*-B	AS Level A-C	A Level A-C
Latin	100%	-	43%	86%	100%
Classical Civilisation	62%	100%	100%	-	100%

A good proportion of students pursue their classical studies at university in a variety of difference subject areas. The Classics department works hard at providing individual advice and guidance for their students as they plan towards their university applications and interviews; we aim to utilise our many links with higher education to ensure students make informed choices and submit strong applications.

The successful candidate will be a good honours graduate who is an enthusiastic, inspiring and motivated classroom practitioner, with experience of teaching Latin and Classical Civilisation at all Key Stages. The ability to support students with applications to Oxbridge Classics courses and a willingness to offer extra-curricular activities within the department is also desirable. He/she will have excellent interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to work in a collegiate and cohesive way under the guidance of a member of the leadership team. He/she will be confident in the use of ICT software and hardware and show willing to improve and share their skills with others in the team.

The School


Loreto is a Roman Catholic Grammar School for girls with Academy status, situated within the Borough of Trafford. The school is heavily oversubscribed, and there are currently 1025 girls on roll, including 256 in the Sixth Form. The majority of the girls come from Trafford, with others from the neighbouring Authorities of Manchester, Stockport, Cheshire and Warrington.

Loreto is a wonderful school in which to learn and work, a school which is rooted in a rich tradition whilst at the same time is very forward looking and keen to keep apace of educational development. We provide an outstanding curriculum, one which is carefully planned and consistently reviewed to meet the needs of the girls at every Key Stage. Our ICT infrastructure is excellent and enhances effective and innovative learning.

We are privileged to have a dedicated and passionate group of staff who are experts in their individual specialist area. The hallmark of my colleagues is their willingness to go the extra mile for the girls and their commitment to this community. The extra-curricular life here is extensive. The girls rise to the academic challenge and appreciate the positive relationships with their teachers. They are reflective learners and engage wholeheartedly with the broader aspects of school life in relation to for example, social justice issues and service towards others. We aspire to fulfil the girls in our care in developing them spiritually, academically and physically in a happy, supportive and enthusiastic environment where each is recognised for their intrinsic worth and valued for their own sakes. Fundamentally, we are a welcoming and happy community.

Loreto was designated a specialist school in Science and Mathematics in 2005. This exciting development has allowed further opportunities for radical and innovative developments for Loreto and our partnership schools. In 2011 we were recognised at National level for our work when we received the Chief Executives' Award from the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust for making the most significant impact to a family of schools. In 2013, 2014 and 2015 we were national winners of the National Teen Tech STEM competition and in 2015 we won the national BIMA award.

Loreto Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



We are privileged to be part of the Loreto network and acknowledge the far reaching work of the sisters. They are active in their support of the school as Trustees and support education in England through the Loreto English Education network (LEEN). Our work is rooted in the Vision, Values and Philosophy of Education of Loreto schools. The values of sincerity, excellence, truth, freedom, internationality, justice and job underpin all that we do. We are proud to support the work of Loreto International in India and Albania, in particular.

The work of all members of our school community is founded in the context of the School Mission Statement and is characterised by 'joyful and loving service to others' the aim of which should be to encourage 'the pursuit of excellence' and to enable each student 'to realise her full potential in a spirit of joy and creativity'. Our students should leave Loreto prepared 'to meet with confidence the challenges of a changing world'. It is, in the words of the poet William Butler Yeats more "to light fires than to fill buckets."

Loreto is a National Teaching School and a National Support School. The CPD opportunities for staff are many and exciting, including Research and Development projects and accredited Leadership programmes. We deliver the School Direct programme through the Teacher Development Agency and in conjunction with Manchester University. We are a member of the Specialist Schools Trust Leading Edge partnership, a Gifted and Talented network. Currently Loreto Grammar School is working in partnership with another Trafford school, St Antony's Catholic College.

Our most recent Ofsted report of October 2008 states:

"This is an outstandingly effective school.....The school provides an excellent atmosphere in which the girls are challenged to think and learn..... It is rooted in the school's deeply embedded Catholic ethos within which the students' spiritual and moral development is profoundly nurtured."

In the Ofsted inspection, a parent described the school as follows:

"Loreto is that indefinable element which wraps up duty, care, faith, purpose, example."

Our Section 48 report in of November 2013 notes that:

"Outcomes for pupils, the provision for Catholic Education, leadership and management in the development of the Catholic life of the school are all confirmed by this Inspection as outstanding. The core values of the school are strongly evidenced throughout in terms of practice, aspiration and relationships all in the context of high academic achievement."

In short, Loreto is an exciting and stimulating professional environment in which to work.

Safeguarding

Loreto Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Successful applicants will be asked to complete and return a 'DBS Application Form' for which ID should be provided at interview stage.

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Candidates should be aware that all posts in school involve some degree of responsibility for safeguarding children, although the extent of that responsibility will vary according to the nature of the post.

If you are currently working with children, on either a paid or voluntary basis, your current employer will be asked about disciplinary offences, including disciplinary offences related to children or young persons (whether the disciplinary sanction is current or time expired), and whether you have been the subject of any child protection allegations or concerns and if so the outcome of any enquiry or disciplinary procedure. If you are not currently working with children but have done so in the past, that previous employer will be asked about those issues. Where neither your current nor previous employment has involved working with children, your current employer will still be asked about your suitability to work with children, although he/she may, where appropriate, answer 'not applicable' if your duties have not brought you into contact with children or young persons.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and therefore all convictions, cautions and bind-overs, including those regarded as 'spent', must be declared.

Application process

This is a permanent position from September 2016.

I hope that the information that I have provided has hooked your interest and I look forward to hearing from you. Should you decide to apply for the post all of the relevant documents are on our website www.loretogrammar.co.uk. Please refer firstly to the '**Guidance Notes for Teaching Staff Applicants**'. Complete the application form and Recruitment Monitoring Form, together with a letter of application outlining your vision and philosophy of teaching Geography at Loreto Grammar School, your relevant experience and your understanding of current, relevant educational developments. Your letter should not exceed 2 pages of A4 in length. **Please note that we do not accept Curriculum Vitae.**

The closing date is Monday, 1 February 2016.

If you have not heard from us by 26 February 2016, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful on this occasion. Due to the large number of applications we receive for our posts, we are unable to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications.

Yours sincerely,

J.A. Beever

J.A. Beever (Mrs)
Headteacher

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