



DURHAM HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Independent Day School
Church of England Foundation
GSA – c550 girls (aged 3-18)
www.dhsfg.org.uk

INFORMATION FOR THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT TEACHER OF CLASSICS

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Durham High School *for* Girls

AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

- To create a friendly, caring community based on Christian principles where every individual is valued
- To develop the potential of every girl in all areas of her life
- To encourage academic excellence and a life-long love of learning

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

An independent day school for girls, Durham High School for Girls was founded in 1884. The school was housed originally in Claypath and moved to Leazes House in 1910 when the school's governing body took over management of the school.

The school is a Church of England Foundation and takes seriously its role as a Christian school which welcomes girls of all faiths and none. There are strong links with the Diocese of Durham and Durham Cathedral.

The presence of the University and the Cathedral in the heart of the city as well as strong professional and commercial interests ensure that Durham is a thriving community and a centre of intellectual and cultural excellence. Pupils come not only from the city of Durham but also from a very wide surrounding area.

In the 1960s the High School moved to its first purpose-built premises on the edge of the city adjacent to the new Durham University colleges. This began a period of building and expansion which continues to the present day. Recent developments include the Rainbow Hill Nursery, a Science, ICT and Library block and most recently a new building incorporating classrooms for Mathematics and Geography with a purpose built Performing Arts Suite and Music practice rooms.

Durham High School provides a continuous education for girls from 3 – 18. The school has expanded considerably in recent years with c550 girls currently on role, c400 in Senior House with around 100 in Sixth Form.

The school enjoys a very good reputation locally both for its academic results and for its friendly, caring atmosphere. Classes are small and the pastoral care of pupils is given a very high priority.

The academic standards are very high. The school has consistently topped the County League tables at both GCSE and A level. In 2011, at GCSE 61% of entries achieved A and A* and well over a third of the year group achieved 9 or more A and A*. The A Level results were most impressive with almost half of the entries achieving A* or A and 88% A*-C. Virtually a third of the year group obtained at least 3 Grade As. Much more importantly every girl in the Upper Sixth obtained a place at a destination of her choice; a substantial number each year win places at Oxford and Cambridge and other Russell Group universities.

The School is keen to widen access as much as possible. There are generous means-tested bursaries, including some free places, to enable as many girls as possible to attend the school from a wide area. There are also academic scholarships available at 11+ and 16+ together with scholarships in Music, Performing Arts and Sport.

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

Contrary to national trends, the Department is steadily increasing in size, with Latin and Classical Civilisation taught at all levels and Greek, formerly available only in the Sixth Form, now a full part of the curriculum from Year 10. All girls begin Latin in Year 7 and continue till Year 9, when they can choose, as many do, to begin the GCSE course, add Greek to their repertoire, or take the non-language route. Numbers choosing to study classical subjects compare favourably with any other optional subject on the curriculum and are very healthy for a school of this size. In Year 13, for example, six girls take Latin, four Greek and four Classical Civilisation. Results in public examinations at both GCSE and A Level, in all three branches of the subject, are excellent and the Department is held in high regard.

Current Staffing

Mrs Dorothy Woodman (HoD)

Mrs Jane Huish (part-time)

plus four other staff who teach some Latin and Greek

Resources

There is a designated Classics room in the main teaching block of the school, thus ensuring the prominence of the subject, as well as a smaller room in Sixth Form. Both are equipped with Internet access. We have a well-stocked book cupboard and a comprehensive library area.

Latin is delivered by a variety of text books. We use the Cambridge Latin Course but also *Disce Latinum* (R. Marshall), *GCSE Latin* (M. Seigel) and *Essential GCSE Latin* (John Taylor). For more advanced study we use Taylor's *Beyond GCSE* as well as the old favourites of North and Hillard and Bradley's Arnold along with the texts themselves. For Greek we use the John Taylor course. In Classical Civilisation GCSE, we have this year begun to use the workbook produced by OCR.

Syllabuses

The Department follows the OCR syllabus for all GCSE courses and for A Level Latin and Greek. We currently follow AQA for A Level Classical Civilisation.

Examination Results in 2011

GCSEs

- 1 **Latin:** 10 A*, 4 A
- 2 **Greek:** 1 A*, 1 A

AS Levels

- 1 **Latin:** 6 A, 1 B
- 2 **Greek:** 4 A
- 3 **Classical Civilisation:** 1B, 1C, 2E

A Levels

Latin: 3 A

We are extremely proud of the number of girls who have chosen to continue their study of the subject at University; in the last 10 years the Department has sent 24 girls on to university to read Classics, many of them to Oxford and Cambridge, and more are set to follow.

Extra-curricular Activities

The success of the Department is based on the enthusiasm and commitment of its members. We have a wide range of extracurricular activities, to which all staff are expected to contribute. Every week we run a Latin Club for Year 6 children from our own Junior House and from local primary schools as outreach. We use the Primary Latin Project devised by Barbara Bell. This has been extremely popular and has served the dual purpose of advertising the school and of actively promoting our subject in the wider community. It has attracted many girls to the school.

There is a weekly Greek Club for Year 9 for those who have shown special aptitude in, or enthusiasm for, Latin. This is designed to stimulate interest in the subject before girls make their choices for GCSE. Greek is also used for gifted and talented extension activities in the first three years of senior school.

The Department runs very successful residential trips to Italy and Greece for various age groups and all members of the Department are expected to be willing to lead these trips. In addition day trips are organised both locally and to London for plays and the British Museum. We take part in all local speaking and grammar competitions and generally try to provide the widest classical experience for all our students.

JOB DESCRIPTION

THE POST

Assistant Teacher of Classics

This is an exciting opportunity for a committed and enthusiastic Classicist. The post has become available because of the growth of the Department and following the retirement of the former Headmistress who was a Classicist.

Durham High School is a Church of England foundation and takes seriously its vision to be a community based on Christian values open to all. It is essential that all staff are fully in sympathy with the Christian ethos of the school.

All staff are expected to have a significant pastoral and extra-curricular commitment.

ROLE OF ASSISTANT TEACHER

Assistant teachers are responsible through the Head of Department to the Head. Their role in implementing School policies and conveying the ethos of the School and its aims and values is crucial in ensuring the success and effectiveness of the whole School.

Aims

- To sustain and improve the quality of education and the education opportunities offered to pupils
- To promote and work in accordance with the School's agreed ethos
- To ensure a safe and appropriate working environment for pupils

Responsibilities of Assistant Teacher

1. Curriculum

- To teach as directed by the Head, implementing the School's agreed policies
- To teach in accordance with the policies and schemes of work of the department
- To keep up to date with developments in education
- To attend meetings when required
- To follow the School's Recording and Assessment Policy
- To provide written reports on pupils' progress when required by the Head

- To attend Parents' Meetings and to meet with parents at other times as necessary
- To maintain effective discipline through the implementation of the School's agreed policies
- To implement changes and developments as required by the Head of Department
- To follow Health and Safety procedures

2. CPD

- To take part in CPD and other training courses as required by the Head

3. Communication

- To attend staff meetings (part-time assistant teachers should attend staff meetings if they would normally be in School on that afternoon)
- To read the Staff Handbook and to work in accordance with the daily routine of the School as outlined in this document
- To read and act upon the information posted daily on the Staffroom notice board and any other relevant information

4. Resources

- To ensure that the department's resources are used appropriately and kept in good order
- To keep a record of all books and equipment issued to pupils

5. General

- To attend public occasions

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Please complete the attached application form and write a covering letter outlining your reasons for applying and what you feel you can bring to the post. This should be addressed to the Acting Head, and should be sent by e-mail to recruitment@dhsfg.org.uk

Please supply the names and addresses of two professional referees from different institutions.

Closing date for applications is *BY NOON on Friday 10th February 2012*
Interviews will be held on **Tuesday 28th February 2012**

We expect the post holder to take up the appointment from September 2012.

SALARY

Salary will be payable according to the Durham High School Salary Scale, which compares favourably with the maintained sector, and is negotiable depending on experience and current salary.

CRB

Durham High School for Girls is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure.

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

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