Information for Candidates

Appointment of

Teacher of History

from April 2021
Introduction

Reigate Grammar School is an independent co-educational day school for pupils aged 11 to 18. It is a highly successful, happy and exciting school which aims to provide a broad and balanced education to boys and girls that will prepare them for the modern world. It has a distinctive character which combines high academic standards with a wide range of extra-curricular activities, strong pastoral care, and a relaxed and unpretentious atmosphere which is unusual for such a high performing school. We aim to educate the whole child and to offer a broad range of experiences for all. In its 2016 ISI Inspection RGS was awarded the rare accolade of “Exceptional” for the overarching aspect of Achievement & Learning and “Excellent” in all aspects – the first co-educational day school to achieve this rating.

HISTORY
The school was founded in 1675 as a free school for boys and became an independent grammar school during the nineteenth century. After the 1944 Education Act Reigate Grammar School came under the control of Surrey County Council, however, on the abolition of the direct grant in 1976, the school reverted to independent status. At the same time girls were admitted for the first time, initially in the Sixth Form, but throughout the school from 1993; and in September 2003, the school merged with Reigate St Mary’s Preparatory and Choir School. Reigate Grammar School now numbers 950 pupils, of whom 250 are in the Sixth Form, with another 330 at Reigate St Mary’s.

LOCATION
The school occupies three adjacent sites near the centre of Reigate in Surrey. Reigate is a pleasant and thriving market town, just outside the M25 yet with easy transport links to London, Gatwick and the Channel Tunnel. The majority of pupils live in Reigate, Redhill and their surrounding villages, but many come from further afield, including Horsham, Crawley, Horley, Dorking, and Guildford.

FACILITIES
The school boasts superb facilities which have been improved considerably in recent years, including a new music school, indoor swimming pool, a new humanities building comprising classrooms and science laboratories, fitness suite, reception area and dining hall. In addition to the main school sites, the sports ground at Hartswood, two miles from the school, provides some 32 acres of playing fields, outdoor cricket nets and a floodlit all-weather pitch. In 2017 the school will open a new state-of-the-art university-style library and resource centre, central to the senior school site.

ADMISSIONS
Pupils are normally admitted at the ages of 11 and 13 via our own entrance examination, with a small number joining the Sixth Form. The school is academically selective. Approximately half our pupils come from primary schools and half from the preparatory sector. The school has a wide social mix, thanks, in part, to the generous bursary schemes, which provide financial assistance to families – sometimes up to 100% of fees.

CURRICULUM
The school has maintained its grammar school ethos and puts academic achievement as its first priority – the 2016 ISI inspection report states, “the needs of pupils are at the centre of every decision”. The curriculum is broad and balanced incorporating traditional and modern elements. For example, all students in the First and Second Forms (Years 7 and 8) study Latin, but also take Food Technology. In addition to the six core subjects at GCSE including separate sciences, English Language and Literature and Maths, students are able to choose GCSE subjects from a wide range of options. The school builds the curriculum around the child with most students taking ten GCSEs or IGCSEs; and three, four or five A Levels, chosen from a wide range of subjects. The Extended Project is also available.

EXAMINATION RESULTS
RGS is consistently ranked as the top co-educational independent school in Surrey and is second only to one other fully coeducational independent day school nationwide. Having been rated ‘Exceptional’ by the ISI in 2016, RGS was visited by The Good Schools Guide in June 2019: the inspector concluded that our well-rounded approach makes for “happy kids and great results”. The school has recently been named ‘School of the Year’ in the prestigious Tatler Schools Awards 2020. 2020 once again saw amazing exam results for Reigate Grammar School’s Fifth Form and Upper Sixth Form students:

At A Level:
- 95% A* to B grades
- 75% of grades at A*-A
- The typical grade profile of RGS students is AAA
- 97% received Russell Group, Top 10, Oxbridge or Medical School offers

whilst at GCSE:
- Best ever results with over 40% of grades at level 9 (A* or above)
- Over 70% of grades at 9 or 8 (A* or above)
- Typical grade profile of RGS students is ten 8s (A*-A)
BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Reigate Grammar School's extra-curricular provision is second to none. It provides an impressively wide range of opportunities, while ensuring that academic potential is fulfilled. We have an enviable reputation in sport, music and drama; large numbers of pupils participate in the CCF and in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award; and clubs and societies abound, including (to name but a few) Model United Nations, chess, Japanese, Eco-Committee, Pyrotechnics and Indoor Rowing. Students of all ages are encouraged to help those less fortunate than themselves, by taking part in our Community Service scheme, or by raising money for charity – last year the school’s Charity Committee raised nearly £25,000 for local and national charities.

Trips and expeditions are a major feature of life at RGS. These range from visits to local sites of interest such as Bodiam Castle, London Zoo or the Imperial War Museum; outward bound expeditions (often as part of the DoE Award) to places such as the Brecon Beacons and Dartmoor; and more ambitious overseas trips including Italy, Greece, France, Germany, Holland, Moscow and St Petersburg, Washington and New York, Belize and Iceland. Language trips and exchanges are encouraged and hugely successful. Sports and music tours are frequent occurrences and regularly include visits to Jersey, Ireland, Italy, Belgium, Canada, South Africa, Dubai and Barbados.

PASTORAL CARE

RGS values all members of the school community as individuals and our aim is that all pupils are happy at school, in the belief that by being happy, they are more likely to be successful. The 2016 ISI inspection report states, “based on mutual respect, the excellent and positive relationships observed by inspectors between staff and pupils and amongst the pupils themselves firmly underpin the strong sense of community within the school.” Within each year group, pupils are under the daily care of their Form Tutor who works closely with other staff, as well as the Heads of Year and Heads of Section, to ensure a co-ordinated and supportive approach. There is a Peer Support service and members of the Upper Sixth Form act as mentors to First Form students from the day they arrive. For those in difficulty, there is an informal counselling service available through the Chaplain, in addition to an independent counsellor who visits the school twice each week.

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

The school has no formal religious affiliation, and accepts pupils of all faiths or none. However, it has close links with St Mary’s Church (next door to the school) and all pupils attend a Church Assembly each week.

THE STAFF

There are around 120 members of the teaching staff and approximately 80 support staff. All are highly committed and give freely of their time to help students to achieve their potential.

The school is organised so that each department shares a suite of classrooms or laboratories with a departmental office, normally adjacent to its teaching space. Departments are extremely well resourced, all classrooms and laboratories are equipped with interactive whiteboards and all teachers are provided with laptops. Most departments have either a technician or an administrative assistant who assist teachers with a variety of tasks. Departments have access to the well-stocked library, assistance provided by the IT Helpdesk and the in-house reprographics department.

There are rarely more than 24 students in a class at Key Stage 3, 20 at GCSE or 12 at A Level (and often less). The maximum teaching load for a main scale teacher is 75% and less for staff with additional responsibilities. RGS provides full induction for newly qualified teachers enabling them to gain Qualified Teacher Status. Professional development is strongly encouraged and generously financed and staff are frequently successful at gaining promotions to other leading schools.
History and Politics at RGS

The History & Politics Departments are based in new, purpose-built (2011) accommodation in the Ballance Building. There are three specialist sixth form teaching rooms and four general classrooms, all of which are equipped with an interactive whiteboard linked to a PC, with DVD facilities and all have access for classroom use to a large bank of laptops. The department has a spacious and well-designed departmental office and is supported by a part-time administrative assistant. The department is well-resourced with textbooks, videos, additional reading and support materials.

There are ten teachers in the department, two of whom have significant other responsibilities within the school. The team has a good mix of experience and is professional, lively and seeking to move forward. It welcomes fresh ideas and encourages varied teaching approaches and the sharing of good practice. This is facilitated by the weekly timetabled department meeting, where new ideas for effective teaching and learning are discussed, as well as long term planning, pupil progress and day to day matters. Members of the department generally teach across the age range.

History

All students study history in Years 7 & 8 and history is a very popular option subject both at GCSE and A level, with up to four A level sets in each year. Results have been excellent in recent years with over 90% gaining levels 7-9 at GCSE and over 90% at A* - B at A level. Pass rates have been 100% at both levels for several years.

For GCSE we follow the AQA syllabus, and in the Sixth Form teach options from the AQA specification. These currently include Russia 1855-1964, Religious Conflict and the Church in England, 1529-1570, and the growth of American Civil Rights, 1865-1968.

A significant number of students go on to read History, Politics, or combined honours courses at top universities. The department has also enjoyed success at Oxbridge, with at least one offer being secured most years.

The department runs a variety of study visits for different year groups, including an annual trip to Ypres for all pupils in Year 8, and biennial trips to Moscow and St Petersburg, and New York and Washington for members of the Sixth Form. Politics students have an annual visit to Parliament, whilst the younger year groups visit Bodiam castle and Hampton Court. There is also a GCSE trip to Hitler on Trial. There is a highly successful History and Politics Society in the Sixth Form, which involves presentations by staff, students and outside speakers.

Politics

Politics is taught only in the Sixth Form and there are normally two Politics sets per year group. We follow the Edexcel specification. The department has achieved excellent examination results. Teaching at A level is arranged in teams of two.

The Post

We seek to appoint a committed and inspirational teacher to join this key department, to teach up to and including A level History and/or Politics. The preferable candidate will have the ability to teach a second subject.

The main responsibilities of the post will include:

♦ teaching A Level History or Politics and History at Key Stage 3 and GCSE;
♦ taking responsibility for certain aspects of the department’s work according to skills and/or specialism;
♦ assisting with History and Politics trips and events outside the classroom;
♦ working as part of a cohesive departmental team and sharing fully in the work of the department;
♦ helping to promote and encourage the study of History and Politics at RGS.

The successful candidate will hold a relevant degree from a good university and be able to demonstrate a high level of subject expertise, the highest academic standards and the ability to enthuse students of all ages. The successful candidate will also be able to teach another subject, ideally Economics. A teaching qualification and experience of the UK education system are desirable, and experience in a similarly high-performing academic environment will be a distinct advantage. The post would suit a newly qualified entrant, for whom full induction would be provided, or a more experienced teacher looking for their first promotion. All teaching staff at Reigate Grammar School are expected to undertake a pastoral role, usually as a Form Tutor, and to contribute to our extensive extra-curricular programme. A willingness to be involved in Games (boys’ or girls’), the CCF or the Duke of Edinburgh Award.
Applications are asked to complete the Teaching Application Form and Supplementary Form (which are also available on our website) and send them with a supporting statement addressed to the Headmaster as soon as possible and by 9.00am on Monday 2 November 2020 at the latest. Please do not send a separate curriculum vitae. Applications will be considered in the order in which they are received, and the school reserves the right to make an appointment prior to the closing date.

Reigate Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All applicants should read the school’s Safeguarding policy, which is available on our website, and are required to declare any criminal convictions or cautions, or disciplinary proceedings related to young people. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Services. Full details are given on the application form.

Reigate Grammar School is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from appropriately qualified persons regardless of gender, marital status, sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, colour, nationality, religion, disability or age. Candidates will be assessed against relevant criteria only (i.e. skills, qualifications, abilities, experience) in selection and recruitment.

Applications should be addressed to the Headmaster and sent (by letter or by email) to the address below.
Mrs Dawn Holmes
Head of Human Resources
Reigate Grammar School
Reigate Road
Reigate
RH2 0QS
Tel: 01737 222231
Email: hr@reigategrammar.org
By Road: Reigate Grammar School can be found on the south side of the A25 about a quarter of a mile east of Reigate town centre, between Reigate and Redhill. The simplest route is via the M25: exit at Junction 8 and join the A217 south; after the level crossing, turn left to join the one way system; stay in the left hand lane at the first lights (signposted A25 Redhill) and go straight across at the next. Reigate Grammar School is on the A25 about 500 metres on the right.

For satellite navigation systems, the school’s postcode is RH2 0QS.

On arrival, please park at the main entrance and report to Reception.

By train: The school is approximately ten minutes’ walk from Reigate station, which is served by trains from London Victoria, London Bridge and East Croydon (Southern Railway) and from Reading and Guildford (First Great Western). There are also frequent connections to Redhill station (about one mile away) which is on the main London Victoria to Brighton line, giving fast connections to Croydon, Crawley, Horsham and other towns to the south.

On arrival, please report to Reception.

For further information on Reigate Grammar School please look at our website: www.reigategrammar.org