

THE DEPARTMENT

The Biology Department is a dynamic and high achieving department consisting of five teachers and one laboratory technician. Housed within the larger science department building, Biology has four recently refurbished specialist labs, including two purpose-built Sixth Form labs and shares two specialist KS3 teaching labs with the other sciences.

Biology is a positive, enthusiastic team who are each highly knowledgeable in their own areas of interest and we aim to inspire the students to find their own interests by setting the theory into current context as much as possible and providing students with opportunities to work on their own research projects and develop their presenting and debating skills. Practical work is integral to the curriculum and we have excellent facilities allowing us to carry out a wide range of techniques from cloning to genetic manipulation and dissection. Extension beyond the specification is expected at all ages and this is built into the timetable for A Level where students experience a fortnightly Biology lesson where they study only off-specification material, usually led by the students themselves on topics of personal interest. The Department maintains a large library for students and staff to borrow from at their leisure and all Sixth Form students regularly read books and complete online courses to broaden their understanding of the subject.

Field work is also highly valued and the department runs field courses for all key stages including a three-day residential for Year 12 students to Preston Montford Field Centre where students experience everything from sampling techniques to small mammal trapping.

Biology is a key contributor to the Science co-curriculum; all teachers run clubs according to their own interests and current offerings include Silver CREST Awards, Dissection Club and Year 7 and 8 Science Club. Students regularly enter competitions including the Biology Olympiad, the Biology Challenge and the MISAC Award and attend lecture trips to London and further afield.

Science at STAHS is taught as separate subjects from Year 7, allowing for specialist teaching, although there is a lot of collaboration between departments and many teachers will teach more than one science as per their own interests and department requirements. At GCSE, the Edexcel IGCSE is taught with the majority of students choosing to pursue the Triple Award qualification and at A Level we study OCR Biology A. Uptake at A Level is high; there are three or four classes in each year group and of these, the majority of the students will go on to study a life science related degree with high uptake of Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry as well as Biology and Natural Sciences.

THE ROLE

The Teacher of Biology will report to the Head of Biology.

The postholder will be an outstanding classroom teacher who will play a key role in the academic life of STAHS and will contribute to the STAHS vision of 'Teach to 25'. They will be passionate about Biology and will be able to design creative and engaging lessons to deliver the curriculum across Years 7 to 13. Teachers at STAHS are experts in their field and the postholder will be expected to stretch our highly able pupils and to support them in their applications to study Biology-related courses at university and other post-18 routes.

All STAHS teachers are required to take a form tutor role and the postholder will also contribute to the co-curricular life of the school.

This is a fixed-term position until Easter 2025. An immediate start is available.

This position involves contact with children and will amount to regulated activity as defined by Keeping Children Safe In Education (KCSIE) for safeguarding children and safer recruitment.



RESPONSIBILITIES

All teachers are appointed by the Head and are expected to:

- Plan and prepare relevant material to teach classes allocated to them, according to the policies of the department to which they are accountable.
- Keep a record of their teaching and monitor and reflect on the effectiveness in meeting the teaching objectives.
- Set and mark pupils' work regularly and appropriately for the subject taught; record marks, monitor and assess progress and write reports as required.
- Maintain good order and discipline among pupils, safeguard their health and safety at all times when they are the responsibility of the school.
- Participate in the arrangements for preparing and assessing pupil's work, including for public examinations.
- Work positively and co-operatively as a member of a team to include liaising and working with colleagues in operating mark schemes, researching materials, keeping abreast of new developments and developing new courses.
- Share in pastoral responsibility for all pupils in school and especially for those in their tutor or teaching groups, liaising where appropriate with pastoral staff.
- As a form tutor, adhere to the expectations within the Form Tutor Handbook. In particular, be the first line of support for your tutees in school.
- Contribute to the delivery of the PSHE ('Skills for Life') programme.
- Contribute to the school's co-curriculum and super-curriculum.
- Proactively take part in professional development and training.
- Participate fully in the School's performance management ('Performance Development') programme.
- Share in supervisory and general duties; uphold good standards of behaviour and punctuality among pupils.
- Cover lessons when required.
- Attend staff meetings and participate in working groups as required.
- Attend assemblies and as often as is reasonable other school functions, playing an active part in wider aspects of school life including extra-curricular activities.
- Attend Parents' Evenings.
- Adhere to school policies and promote the school's vision, values and aims.

In addition to the above, the post holder will carry out any other professional duties as reasonably required by the Head.

The High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

STAHS is a vibrant school supported by a diverse and enthusiastic community of staff, pupils, parents and alumni. It is important that our staff reflect the diversity of our community, and we therefore welcome and encourage applications from people of all genders and sexual orientation, those from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds, and those with disabilities.

The successful candidate will be required to fulfil all the duties, as outlined in the job description. In addition to this, the candidate should possess the following competencies:

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience as an excellent classroom teacher.• Good, relevant degree-level qualification.• Post-graduate professional qualification e.g. PGCE.• Strong level of scholarship in Biology.• Experience as a form tutor is desirable.
SKILLS & QUALITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passion for Biology, for Biology education and extensive knowledge of the current educational landscape.• Excellent subject knowledge and knowledge of up-to-date resources and pedagogical approaches.• Reflective practitioner with evidence of continued professional development and a recognition that we can all improve.• Strong communication and interpersonal skills.• Ability to communicate and work effectively with pupils, parents and colleagues of all levels in the school.• Ability to motivate and manage pupils by getting to know each pupil individually.• ICT literate and an effective user of technology in teaching and administration.• Excellent time management and organisational skills.• Team player.• Ability to think creatively and lead new initiatives.• Adaptable and flexible to accommodate changes in work priorities.• Understand and respect the principles of confidentiality.• High professional standards of yourself and pupils.• Contribute positively to the overall ethos, vision, values and aims of the school.
SAFEGUARDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and to follow the child protection procedures detailed in the school's safeguarding policy.• Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children.