

George Watson's College wishes to appoint a full or part time Teacher of Health and Food Technology (HFT) to cover a maternity leave from August 2026. The post would suit an experienced teacher or a newly qualified teacher seeking to complete their probationary period. The vacancy represents an opportunity for a practitioner with outstanding potential to make a high profile contribution to one of Scotland's leading schools.

### THE SCHOOL

George Watson's College is one of the country's best co-educational independent day schools. Despite its size, everyone remarks that it has a small-school 'feel': the close-knit and friendly relationships amongst all its constituents are a hallmark of the School. Its motto – *ex corde caritas* (Love from the Heart) – is central to its values as it seeks to sustain what is described as 'The Watson's Family'.

This tangible sense of togetherness is significantly enhanced by everyone being on one purpose-built site, which is located in the attractive residential district of Morningside, to the South West of the centre of Edinburgh. Edinburgh itself is the second strongest city economy in the UK, outside of London, with the highest percentage of graduates and professionally qualified adults in the UK and over 25% of school age children attending fee-paying schools. Watson's is proud of its independent status and, whilst remaining true to its Scottish roots, seeks to sustain and develop an international perspective. The curriculum is adapting to the innovations inherent in Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence and the new Scottish National Qualifications.

The School welcomes a wide range of academic ability, and has very high academic standards, with 90% of pupils going on to Higher Education and a large proportion of pupils achieving outstanding success. Watson's also has excellent facilities, and offers a huge range of courses as well as extra-curricular activities. In addition, it has particular strengths in Sport, Music, Drama, Outdoor Education, Technology and in Support for Learning. The School is very well resourced with a campus-wide IT network.

The Principal, Lisa Kerr, took up post in 2024. Leadership of the Senior School is delegated to Louise Clarke, Head of the Senior School, and the Senior School Leadership Team, including three Deputy Headteachers. A parallel structure exists in the Junior School.

### The Senior School

The leadership of the Senior School is delegated by the Principal to the Head of Senior School who works closely with a team of Deputy and Assistant Headteachers. The leadership model enables Principal Teachers to shape the character of their department within an overall ambition for the Senior School and George Watson's College as a whole. Principal Teachers are encouraged to play a role in the development and implementation of practice in all aspects of the Senior School, especially in improving curriculum design, pupil support and learning and teaching.

Our work with pupils and amongst ourselves is characterised by good relationships which, in turn, creates the context for better learning. We aim to be an inclusive school and to find ways to recognise and celebrate our diversity. We have achieved Gold Status as a Rights Respecting School and we have been awarded Gold Level by LGBT+ Youth Scotland.

Approximately two-thirds of pupils in the Senior School have progressed there from the Junior School. On arrival, they have a carefully worked out induction programme which includes a residential experience together in the first term.

In First and Second Year, a diverse and stimulating timetable balances challenging academic progression with a variety of learning experiences, including in two foreign languages. Pupils study many of their subjects in their form classes but are set in English and Mathematics. This enables them to progress at a pace that provides the appropriate level of challenge and provides them with an opportunity to mix with the rest of their year group.

From Second Year, pupils discuss their personal targets and study options with teachers, through to their key certificate examinations, and we ensure that they choose subjects and levels that match their abilities and aspirations.

At Watson's we are proud of the exceptionally broad range of certificate courses we offer. Available at various levels of certification within the national qualifications framework, our extensive provision includes subjects across the spectrum of arts, sciences and social sciences, with a notably wide selection of languages, including Mandarin Chinese.

It is important that we prepare pupils for the increased independence they will require after school. A programme of study skills encourages independent thought and enquiry. Throughout their time at Watson's, pupils make confident use of our outstanding IT facilities and our Library.

### **Subject Details:**

Health and Food Technology provides excellent opportunities for learning and teaching for both S1 and S2, as well as through a selection of Qualifications Scotland core and enrichment courses. The team consists of two specialist HFT teachers and our HFT Technician.

### **Role Purpose**

To deliver high-quality learning and teaching in Health and Food Technology, enabling all learners to develop knowledge, skills, and attributes in line with the Curriculum for Excellence, Qualification Scotland and GWC Values. The postholder will support young people to achieve success in National Qualifications while contributing positively to the wider life and ethos of the School.

### **Key Responsibilities**

- Create a positive, safe, inclusive, and inspiring learning environment that supports all learners.
- Promote and maintain the highest standards of behaviour within the classroom and across the school.
- Ensure all health, safety, and hygiene standards are rigorously upheld.
- Work collaboratively with the HFT team, including the HFT Technician, to ensure the effective delivery of the curriculum.
- Plan and deliver engaging, inclusive lessons aligned with CfE experiences and outcomes, QS supporting progression and pathways for all learners.
- Prepare and present learners for QS and other relevant qualifications, ensuring high standards of attainment and achievement.
- Develop learners' lifelong skills and interest in health and food through high-quality S3 Core and Senior Enrichment lessons.

- Contribute to interdisciplinary learning and wider enrichment opportunities.
- Use assessment effectively to track progress, provide high-quality feedback, and inform next steps in learning.
- Engage professionally and collaboratively with pupils, colleagues, and families to support achievement and attainment.
- Contribute to HFT and whole-school improvement planning in line with HGIOS 4 quality indicators.
- Lead an aspect of an HFT subject or year group.
- Engage in ongoing professional learning and reflective practice to enhance teaching quality.

### **Wider Contribution**

- Role of Form Tutor, including supporting a Form class, taking morning registration, and delivering Form lessons.
- Participate fully in the wider life of the school, including break and lunch duties, clubs, trips, and enrichment activities.
- Contribute to HFT and whole-school improvement priorities.

### **Requirements**

- Qualified Teacher of Health and Food Technology (or probationer working towards full registration).
- Registration with the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS).
- Experience of teaching Health and Food Technology in a secondary school setting.
- Strong knowledge of CfE and QS qualifications, particularly National 5 Practical Cookery and Skills for Work: Hospitality and Barista
- Commitment to high-quality learning and teaching and to contributing to a positive school ethos.

### **REMUNERATION**

Teaching staff at George Watson's College are paid a competitive salary. The salary is pensionable under the Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme.

### **DISCLOSURE SCOTLAND - PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS SCHEME**

All staff must be prepared to undergo screening to confirm their suitability to work with children and young people.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Please include a letter of application of not more than 800 words giving us more information about you, and why you would like the role, addressed to Louise Clarke, Head of Senior School.

Any specific questions relating to the advertised post can be put directly to the Head of Pupil Development, Joanna McGlynn by email ([j.mcglynn@gwc.org.uk](mailto:j.mcglynn@gwc.org.uk)).

Candidates called for an interview will be asked to teach a lesson as part of the selection process.

If you require more information about the School, please visit our school website.

Closing date: **11:59pm 21 May 2026**

Interviews are scheduled to take place on **4 and 5 June 2026**.