



Fettes College

Part-time Teacher of History and Politics January 2026 or sooner (if available)



This is an exciting opportunity to join a thriving History and Politics Department. The successful candidate will be an excellent classroom practitioner who can inspire students of all abilities and demonstrate a real enthusiasm for History and Politics.

Academic ability and rigour, a passion for learning and an enthusiastic approach to classroom teaching will be vital qualities for the successful applicant. We are looking for a 0.4 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) to teach History and Politics for the remainder of this academic year due to changes in our staffing needs. There may be scope to continue this role in the next academic year, and even to increase hours, as our staffing needs develop.



About Fettes

The school stands on a magnificent site of approximately 100 acres, within walking distance of Edinburgh's city centre and is a leading HMC co-educational independent boarding and day school, with a Prep school for students starting at age 7 and from September 2025 a Pre-Prep was introduced. Known for its academic excellence, Fettes is unique in Scotland in following the English curriculum of GCSE examinations and the dual pathway of A Level and International Baccalaureate (IB). Fettes has a strong focus on pastoral care and all-round education, providing their students with '*A place to live. A place to learn. A place to grow*'. Founded by Sir William Fettes in 1870, it was originally a boy's school and started admitting girls in 1970. The main building was designed by one of Scotland's leading architects, David Bryce. We are a community of more than 1000 individuals, made up of just under 700 students and over 300 dedicated staff.



Aims

Fettes College aims to nurture the individual while fostering a happy, well-ordered and caring community with strong family values at its core. To this end, we will do our utmost to ensure our students:

- Receive the highest possible quality of education within a boarding environment
- Feel safe, valued, have a sense of personal worth and are thoughtful and considerate of the needs of others, possessing a willingness to take on responsibility
- Develop their self-confidence, integrity, emotional resilience, loyalty, good manners and humour, leadership skills and teamwork
- Value a sense of community and service, and develop a clear sense of right and wrong, equipping them for life beyond Fettes
- Are provided with equal opportunities regardless of gender, sexuality, ethnic origin race, or religion
- Are encouraged to stretch and challenge themselves in everything they undertake

The History and Politics Department

History is one of the most in demand subjects in the academic curriculum at Fettes College. The Department is experienced and successful with seven members of staff delivering the subject to students from Third Form to Sixth Form.

The number of students taking the subject at Fettes is high, with over 100 students studying GCSE History in the Fourth and Fifth Forms, and nearly 100 in the Sixth Form across the IB and A Level courses. Examination results over the past number of years have been excellent, with 90% of students attaining a Level 6 or 7 in the International Baccalaureate, 91% of A Level students achieving an A* to B grade and 75% of GCSE candidates achieving 9-7 grades in the 2024 exam cycle. In the last HMIE inspection, the department was described as “sector leading” and was praised for its ability to “teach young people in an accessible and creative way”.

In Third Form, where History is compulsory, the aim is to enthuse the students in a study of the past through topics such as the First World War, the Holocaust, the Windrush Generation and the Women’s Movement. Recent changes have been made to our curriculum to reflect more accurately the diversity in the College.

For Fourth and Fifth Form, where History is optional, we follow the CIE IGCSE History course (9-1), which explores Germany 1919-45 as the Depth Study, and a study of International Relations in the Twentieth Century as the Core Content. In the Sixth Form, students have a choice of taking either the A Level (OCR) or IB pathway. At A Level, we have opted for different papers dependent on the expertise of the teachers,



including The Cold War in Asia, Twentieth Century Russia, Post-war Britain and the Civil Rights Movement in the USA. The IB course involves topics such as Rights and Protest, The Cold War and Authoritarian States at Standard Level whilst at Higher Level we teach Italian and German Unification and Russian Imperialism.

Each year a significant number of students from Fettes apply to read History at university and we also aim to prepare our very best students for applications to Oxford and Cambridge.

Politics is a popular option for both A Level and IB candidates in the Sixth Form. At A Level we follow the Edexcel course, covering UK Politics and Government and Global Politics. Again, results here are strong with 100% of candidates achieved either A*-C at A Level or 7-6 at IB.





A Supportive Common Room

New teachers at Fettes join a friendly and supportive Common Room with a dynamic mixture of age and experience. Every new member of staff undergoes a detailed induction process and engages thereafter in a supportive Review and Development and CPD system to develop their skills as an all-round teacher.

We are committed to inclusion for all staff and welcome staff into our community regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and marriage and civil partnerships.

Excellent Career Development

There are multiple further opportunities for career development, whether those are of an academic or pastoral nature, or in the extracurricular fields. The close-knit nature of boarding school life means that staff enjoy excellent student/teacher relationships and there are usually opportunities for suitable new appointments to progress quickly and take on whole-school responsibilities.

Expectations of Staff

The academic teaching that takes place in the classroom is of fundamental importance and we pride ourselves on the quality of learning and teaching at Fettes. However, typical of a boarding school, our teaching staff do so much more than teach. Our full-boarding ethos means that each member of the teaching staff can become fully immersed in all aspects of life at Fettes.

Teachers can also involve themselves in the Fettes community by coaching sports and bringing their particular interests and strengths to our thriving extra-curricular programme (where over 40 activities are offered).

Fettes expects all our staff to be professional, well-mannered, well-presented and courteous to students, staff and visitors to the College always. All staff are expected to read and understand the various school policies we must ensure that these are followed.

Quality of Life

Fettes (and, more widely Edinburgh and Scotland) offers an exciting environment in which to work and live. The Common Room organises a variety of social events which often take advantage of the proximity of the city centre. The school is situated a short walk from the restaurants and bars of Stockbridge and within easy reach of the cultural centres of galleries, concert halls, theatres and cinemas. Each member of staff enjoys membership of the excellent on-site Westwoods Sports Centre and there is never far to travel for further outdoor pursuits such as water sports, hill-walking, skiing and climbing. Staff also have the opportunity to lead or assist on challenging and exciting trips and tours to all corners of the globe.



The Ideal Candidate

Successful applicants for a teaching post at Fettes would be expected to have the following characteristics:

- Excellent academic pedigree
- Ambitious, diligent, keen to develop their existing talents
- Willing to embrace new experiences
- Understand the commitment required of a boarding environment
- Enthusiastic to become involved in all aspects of school life

Conditions of the Appointment

- The appointment will date from January 2026 or sooner, depending on availability
- The role is part time and for the remainder of this academic year, with scope to extend into next year depending on staffing needs
- Salary will be by negotiation and will depend on the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate
- Employment will be subject to one term's notice on either side
- All applicants must be either registered with GTCS or eligible for GTCS registration. If you are unsure of your eligibility you should check the GTCS website: www.gtcs.org.uk before applying
- Other details and conditions of service will be discussed at interview

The History and Politics Department is led by Ms Tara McDonald. Interested candidates can contact Tara before a formal application is made by email: TJ.McDonald@fettes.com, if they wish to discuss the role prior to application.

Applications including the names and contact details of two referees should be made via the Fettes College page on www.fettes.com/about-us/work-with-us. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 29th October 2025, and interviews are likely to take place on Friday 7th November 2025.

We are passionate about creating a diverse workforce and welcome applications from under-represented communities. We particularly encourage applications from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) candidates. If you would like to have an informal chat about the inclusive culture at Fettes College or have any questions about how this might work for you, please contact Anushka Chakravarty Deputy, Head (Academic) at a.chakravarty@fettes.com