

THE DEPARTMENT

The Psychology Department consists of two dedicated teachers who, as a team, enjoy exploring new ideas, producing and sharing resources and ensuring that pupils are given as many enriching opportunities as is possible. In recent years, pupils have enjoyed a 'Brain Day' with Guy Sutton, a 'Behind Bars' Forensic Psychology conference, a trip to the Freud Museum and a BPS 'Careers in Psychology' online event. In addition, all pupils have access to a dedicated Psychology website, which contains their lesson resources and extension materials, as well as up-to-date university, personal statement and career information. We aim to create an environment that encourages independence and inspires a lifelong love of learning Psychology.

The Department's uptake of pupils studying Psychology is very strong, always between two and three classes in each of Year 12 and Year 13. With these numbers, Psychology is one of the most popular A level subjects on offer at STAHS. We are particularly proud of the large proportion of our Year 13 pupils who have chosen to study Psychology at university, as well as the great numbers of Year 12 pupils who are already keen to pursue careers as Clinical, Forensic or Educational Psychologists. With these career paths in mind, we have chosen to study Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology and Cognition and Development as our optional modules, as per the AQA A Level specification.

Beyond A level Psychology, we run a Sixth Form Stretch programme where we meet with pupils who are keen to study Psychology at degree level on a weekly basis. They are provided with challenges designed to improve the depth and breadth of their psychological knowledge, as well as ensuring that they are able to produce impressive personal statements that stand out from the crowd.

In addition, we run a series of co-curricular clubs including 'PsychFlix', where we watch and discuss psychology-based documentaries, as well as clubs dedicated to putting on fundraising events to raise money for mental health charities. We also host an annual film event for the whole of Year 11 around Christmas, where we have watched and discussed, for example, 'A Beautiful Mind' and 'The Wave'. The aim is to help pupils lower down in the school with no knowledge or experiences of Psychology to better understand what this discipline involves, with the hope of sparking their enthusiasm to study Psychology at A level, as well as ensuring that they are able to make an informed choice when the time comes.

THE ROLE

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

The postholder will be an outstanding classroom teacher who will play a key role in the academic life of the School. They will be passionate about Psychology and will be able to design creative and exciting lessons to deliver the curriculum across Years 12 and 13. Experience supporting pupils in their applications to study Psychology-related fields at university is desirable.

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

This is a permanent position. The preferred start date for this position is an immediate start, however other start dates will be considered.

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.
- Set and mark pupils' work regularly and appropriately for the subject taught; record marks, monitor and assess progress and write reports as required.
- Participate in the arrangements for preparing and assessing pupil's work 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.
- Take part in professional development including training.
- 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.
- Maintain good order and discipline among pupils, safeguarding their health and safety at all times when they are the responsibility of the school. The teacher must be familiar with the school and departmental policies on discipline and health and safety.
- Share in supervisory and general duties; uphold good standards of behaviour and punctuality among pupils.
- 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.
- Participate fully in the School's performance management programme.
- Adhere to School policies.

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 of the duties, as outlined in the job description. In addition to this, the candidate should possess the following competencies which are essential to this position:

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Experience as an excellent classroom teacher.
- Relevant degree level qualification.
- Post graduate professional qualification e.g. PGCE.
- Strong level scholarship in Psychology.

SKILLS

- A passion for Psychology and for Psychology education together with excellent subject knowledge.
- A commitment to developing innovative and stimulating pedagogy.
- Extensive knowledge of the current educational landscape with respect to the teaching of Psychology.
- Extensive knowledge of up-to-date resources.
- Evidence of continued professional development.
- ICT literate.
- Excellent time management and organisational skills.
- Knowledge and experience of using various types of technology to enhance teaching and learning.
- A commitment to getting to know each student as an individual learner.
- An understanding of the assessment criteria and requirements of the course.
- Excellent communication skills, particularly when addressing staff, pupils or parents directly.
- Ambitious to establish and develop actual and virtual links with the wider school community and beyond.

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PERSON SPECIFICATION (continued)

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- Hard working team player, with a positive and enthusiastic attitude.
- Proactive; ability to lead new initiatives.
- Eager to improve your own professional skills.
- Flexible in order to accommodate changes in work priorities, using own initiative and prioritising effectively.
- Reflective.
- Understand and respect the principles of confidentiality.
- High professional standards of yourself and students.
- Ability to think creatively and demonstrate initiative, dealing calmly with different situations as they arise.

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHOS

- 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.
- Contribute positively to the overall ethos, objectives and aims of the School.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Support health and Safety training initiatives and to actively participate in this area.