



**MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL**  
INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS 7 - 18 AND SIXTH FORM GIRLS



**Information Pack**  
**Head of Chemistry**

Closing date: Midday, Wednesday January 31st

Interview date: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

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## Introduction from the Master, Helen Pike

Magdalen College School is a remarkable place. We are now well into our sixth century, and our former pupils include scholars, war heroes, musicians, Olympians, two Nobel Prize laureates, a Hollywood film director, and a saint. Our success in public examinations, in securing places at top universities, and in an astonishing array of extra-curricular pursuits ensures that we continue this proud tradition. We do so by nurturing the individual potential of each of our pupils, and above all we believe that learning is as fun as it is fulfilling.



Magdalen College School was founded in 1480 by William of Waynflete: schoolmaster, bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor of England. Being of humble origins, Waynflete was determined that others of ability should be given the opportunity to learn, to serve and to prosper as he did. And so MCS offers a transformative education in our global university city, the community to which we contribute.

We attract and retain the best staff and MCS is a stimulating, welcoming and thriving environment in which both to learn and to work.

A lot happens at MCS. The various sections of our website ([www.mcsoxford.org](http://www.mcsoxford.org)) including the recent [News](#) will give you an impression of our school.

Thank you for your interest.

*H. C. Pike*



## **HEAD OF CHEMISTRY**

### **General Information**

#### **The School**

Magdalen College School, founded in 1480 by William of Waynflete, is one of the country's leading independent day schools. It is situated in an enviable location at the heart of Oxford beside the River Cherwell. It educates boys from 7 – 18, and girls in the Sixth Form.



#### **The Role**

The school is seeking to appoint a well-qualified Chemist from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 to lead a thriving department and to teach bright and enthusiastic pupils from Year 7 to A Level and Oxbridge, and to sustain the high profile currently enjoyed by this popular subject.



### **Application Process**

Candidates should submit the Application Form for Teaching Staff which can be found on the Job Vacancy link of the website ([www.mcsoxford.org](http://www.mcsoxford.org)). To access [click here](#). This should be emailed, together with a cv and covering letter of application, to the Recruitment Officer, Mrs Sarah Hunter ([applications@mcsoxford.org](mailto:applications@mcsoxford.org)). All documentation should be sent no later than **midday Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup>**. The school's preferred method of communication is by email and it will not be necessary to send a hard copy of the documents by post.

We anticipate holding interviews on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February and will be in contact with shortlisted candidates by telephone.

### **The Department**

The Chemistry Department currently consists of four full-time and two part-time teachers who form a close-knit team sharing ideas and resources freely. Communication, adaptability, hard work and a good sense of humour are fundamental to the Department's success. The successful candidate will be required to teach across year groups from Year 7 to A Level and Oxbridge.

Chemistry is a popular and successful subject at Magdalen College School, and is liked and respected by pupils, due in no small part to the dedication and ability of the staff in the Department. Chemistry teaching takes place in a suite of well-resourced laboratories, which all have interactive whiteboards. The Department is ably supported by two experienced and well-qualified laboratory technicians as well as a general Science technician. Reprographics are centrally administered.



The subject is compulsory up to the Fifth Form (Year 11) when all pupils take the IGCSE examination (Edexcel). A large number of pupils – about half of the Lower Sixth – study Chemistry at A Level.



The department achieves outstanding results in public examinations. In 2017, we achieved 97% A\*-A at IGCSE (93% achieved A\*). At A Level 96% of grades were at A\*-B, 67% at A\*-A, and 22% at A\*. In each of the last few years, around 25 Sixth Form pupils have gained gold, silver or bronze certificates in the Chemistry Olympiad.

## **Chemistry in the curriculum**

### ***Second and Third form (Years 7 and 8)***

Chemistry is taught as a separate science from the Second Form onwards. The department has devised a bespoke course which links to the National Curriculum. There is also a particular focus on skill development and practical work at this level, which supports future success at IGCSE and A Level.

### ***Lower Fourth, Upper Fourth and Fifth Form (Years 9, 10 and 11)***

The IGCSE (Edexcel) begins in Lower Fourth. It is a linear course with no coursework and a final formal assessment at the end of the Fifth Form. The course takes three years to complete and provides the flexibility to explore the concepts fully, spending time on the practical elements in order to provide comprehensive preparation for the study of the subject at A Level. The pupils are assessed regularly using internally designed tests and exams.

### ***Sixth Form (Years 12-13)***

For A Level the department follows the OCR specification. It is a wide-ranging course with practical elements embedded throughout. Pupils sit all examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth with the Practical Endorsement reported separately.

As well as teaching beyond the confines of the syllabus, the Department runs optional extension sessions for Sixth Form pupils and for Upper Sixth pupils applying to Oxbridge. There are also optional weekly drop-in sessions to support pupils who are struggling with a particular aspect of their work. There is a bespoke programme of classes and speakers for pupils preparing for the BMAT and applications to study medicine, coordinated by a member of the Chemistry department. Many Sixth Formers research a science-related subject for Waynflete Studies, the school's own extended project, taught in conjunction with members of the university, and a very encouraging number of pupils go on to study Chemistry and related subjects at leading universities.



### **The Candidate**

This will be a full-time appointment and the successful candidate will be a well-qualified Chemist who will be prepared to take a share of the teaching of the subject at all levels. Above all, he or she will be enthusiastic about the subject as a whole and have a desire to sustain or raise the high profile currently enjoyed by Chemistry at MCS. Head of Department, reports to the Deputy Head (Academic), and ultimately to the Master.

Candidates short-listed for interview will be asked to teach an observed lesson when they come to the school. They will also be required to bring with them the necessary ID documentation and degree certificate(s), all of which must be originals. Further information on the observed lesson and documentation required will be provided with the invitation to interview.

In a lively day school, a willingness to contribute to other areas of school life, whether in the pastoral system, in games, music, drama, CCF or other activities, is always advantageous.

### **Safeguarding Policy**

Magdalen College School is committed to the safeguarding of pupils, and any offer of employment will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure, the receipt of satisfactory references, the school's pre-employment medical questionnaire, plus sight of relevant original ID documentation and degree certificate(s).

### **Additional Information**

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Recruitment Officer: 01865 253401.



## **Benefits**

MCS currently has its own salary scale, and salaries are more generous than those in the maintained sector; there is also a relocation allowance on a sliding scale, by agreement with the Master and Bursary, and dependent on current location. The school offers private medical cover and subscribes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme, in which all teaching staff are auto-enrolled – there is, of course, an opt out, should this be preferred. School fee remission for full time staff sons (from Junior through to Sixth Form) and staff daughters (Sixth Form) who pass entrance tests for the school is currently 50%. In addition, Headington Girls School currently allows full-time staff daughters who pass entrance tests for the school a 20% remission. (Headington fee remission is only available to staff with an FTE of 50% or over). All benefits are *pro rata* for part time staff, with the exception of private medical cover which is a 100% benefit. In recent years, the school has introduced its own Waynflete Teaching Certificate scheme and successful candidates without a formal PGCE or equivalent, who meet the necessary criteria, may be invited to join this scheme. Please note that MCS is an inner-city school, with limited parking. Candidates who have been offered a post will be invited to make representations in the preceding Trinity Term to the Usher (Senior Deputy Head) for a parking space.

*Hilary 2018*