



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



## **Information Pack**

**Head of Physics**

**To start: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019**

Closing date: Midday, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Interviews: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019

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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 PHYSICS

### 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.

#### The Role

Magdalen College School is seeking to appoint a Head of Physics from September 2019. The successful candidate will be required to teach across senior school year groups, from Second Form (Year 7) to A Level and probably Oxbridge preparation.



#### 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 by midday Thursday February 14<sup>th</sup>. Interviews will be held on Monday February 25<sup>th</sup> and shortlisted candidates will be contacted by telephone. 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.

**References may be taken up in advance, although this does not necessarily mean that a candidate will be called for interview. If you do not wish references to be called for at this stage, please make that clear on the reference section of the application form.**



## **The Department**

The Physics Department currently consists of three full-time and two part-time teachers of Physics.

In the Second and Third Form (Years 7 and 8) the Department has devised its own introductory course consistent with Common Entrance and Key Stage 3 requirements; the pupils are taught the three sciences separately by subject specialists. During Lower Fourth to Fifth Form (Years 9 to 11), all pupils study Physics, following the Edexcel IGCSE Physics course (4PH1). In 2018, 99% of IGCSE grades awarded were A\* or A, and 93% were A\*.

Typically, over a third of Lower Sixth pupils choose Physics as one of their subjects. The Department follows the AQA specification (7408) for A Level. Students sit an internal exam at the end of the Lower Sixth year. Over the past three years, around 90% of the A level passes have been at grade A\* or A with 49% gaining an A\* grade last year. The Department's teaching activities are supplemented by educational visits (for example to CERN and the Oxford Particle Physics Masterclasses at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory), internal lectures from outside speakers and participation in the Physics Olympiad and similar competitions.

Departmental facilities include five well-equipped laboratories, two prep rooms and a departmental office. The department is well resourced with apparatus and other teaching material. All laboratories feature networked PCs, interactive whiteboards and document cameras.

The Department is ably supported by two Laboratory Technicians. Reprographics (photocopying, laminating, binding etc.) and stationery are centrally administered and a secretary to the Common Room is available to help in these areas.



### **The Candidate**

The successful candidate will be a well-qualified Physicist who will be prepared to take a share of the teaching of the subject at all levels. Above all, he/she will be enthusiastic about the subject as a whole and be prepared to participate in our extra-curricular events. The Head of Physics will be responsible to the Master via the Deputy Head (Academic) for the proper discharge of his/her duties.

Candidates shortlisted for interview will be asked to prepare a five minute presentation on their vision for Physics at MCS, and will 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.



## **Benefits**

MCS currently has its own salary scale, and salaries are substantially more generous than those in the maintained sector; there is also a relocation allowance on a sliding scale, by agreement with the Master and Bursar, and dependent on current location. The school also operates a cycle to work scheme, and travel loans are available. 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 School through to Sixth Form) and staff daughters (Sixth Form) who pass entrance tests for the school is currently 50%; this operates on a pro-rata basis for part time staff. In addition, Headington School currently allows full time staff daughters who pass entrance tests for the school a 20% remission. (Headington fee remission also operates on a pro-rata basis for part time staff, and is only available to permanent staff with a Full Time Equivalent of 50% or over).



The school has a fully equipped gym which is available for staff use, and staff may also enjoy access to the University of Oxford's Rosenblatt Swimming Pool. Tennis courts are available, and there is a comprehensive programme of staff sports clubs, including football, climbing, yoga, Pilates, and badminton. Staff also have the opportunity to join choirs and music groups, and to get involved in drama productions.



Staff are encouraged to make use of the Senior Common Room within and after the school day, as an area for relaxation and shared discussion outside departments. There is also a quiet room located close to the SCR where staff can work and study. Tea and Coffee are served in the SCR at morning break, Lunch is provided in the Dining Hall, and cakes and cut fruit are available in the SCR at the end of the school day. Staff socials, guest nights and Master's Drinks are regular features of each term.



### **Professional Development**

The school places a significant emphasis on the professional development of all staff. A half termly CPD & Teaching Newsletter is distributed by email, which aims to highlight educational research and practical ideas, to share ideas from courses and conferences attended, to offer guidance on opportunities for CPD, and to highlight the work of colleagues in the area of teaching and learning. All colleagues are encouraged to attend at least one external CPD course each year, and also to visit another school, place of work or university, where appropriate.



The Teaching & Learning group meets before school twice per half term. Its purpose is to consider developments in educational research, to facilitate discussion of teaching and learning, to offer a forum for the sharing of good teaching practice, and to support colleagues in experimenting with new teaching techniques. There is also a programme of Learning Lunches each term for colleagues to share good practice. Colleagues who have been teaching for more than seven years (including a minimum of three years' service at MCS) may make an application for study leave for the second half of the Trinity term.

### **Waynflete Teaching Certificate**

The School aims to offer teaching staff joining the school without a teaching qualification (UQTs) the opportunity to develop their teaching craft and reflect on their professional practice through a structured programme of training and support. For such colleagues, the school offers the Waynflete Teaching Certificate, which may ultimately lead to Qualified Teacher Status through the Assessment Only route offered by the University of Reading.

### **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 and sight of relevant original ID documentation and degree certificate(s).

### **Additional Information**

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 term preceding their arrival to the Usher (Senior Deputy Head) for a parking space. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Recruitment Officer: 01865 253401.