



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



## **Information Pack**

**Part-time (0.6-0.7) Teacher of Geography – 1 year, fixed-term contract – to start September 2019**

Closing date: Midday, Thursday March 21st

Interview date: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

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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*



## TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY

### 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 Geographer from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019, on a 1 year, fixed term contract, part-time (0.6-0.7), to teach bright and enthusiastic pupils from Year 7 to A Level and Oxbridge. Further information on the post is included below.



### 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 Thursday March 21st**. 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 March 27<sup>th</sup> and will be in contact with shortlisted candidates by telephone.

### 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 and the school's pre-employment medical questionnaire, plus sight of relevant original ID documentation and degree certificate(s).





## The Department

Geography is a popular subject in the school, and the department currently consists of four teaching staff. The successful candidate will be required to teach across year groups from Year 7 to A Level and Oxbridge.

Geography is a well-established and very successful subject at Magdalen College School. The pupils share an enthusiasm for the subject due, in no small part, to the dedication and ability of the staff in the department. The department occupies a suite of three modern classrooms in the New Building. All classrooms are equipped with dual projectors, an interactive whiteboard wall and visualisers. In



addition, the department has a set of iPads for classroom use. The departmental office is well-stocked with resources, both written and electronic, alongside an extensive media collection. We are also fortunate to possess a large collection of fieldwork equipment. Reprographics are centrally administered and secretaries to the Common Room are available to help in these areas.

The subject is compulsory up to the end of Lower Fourth (Year 9) when pupils can opt to take the subject for GCSE. It is a popular choice for GCSE with 70 students in the U4th (Year 10). At A Level numbers vary but there are currently 29 pupils in the L6th (Year 12).



The department achieves outstanding results in public examinations. In 2018, for the Edexcel A GCSE syllabus, we achieved 76% of grades at level 9 and 16% at level 8. At A level 28% of grades were at A\* and 88% of grades were A\* -A.

## **Geography in the curriculum**

### ***Second, Third and Lower Fourth form (Years 7 - 9)***

Geography is taught as a discrete subject from the Second Form onwards. The department follows its own curriculum taking a thematic approach to issues such as development, superpowers, Antarctica, hazards and the Geography of health. There is also a focus on key Geographical skills including map skills and the use of ICT.

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

At GCSE we follow Edexcel A (9-1). Students attend a residential fieldtrip in April for three days to North Wales where we teach the material but we use a Field Studies Centre as a base. On the trip the students undertake rivers and urban fieldwork. There is a one day ecosystems trip during the Michaelmas term of the 5<sup>th</sup> form.

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

We follow the OCR specification; students do not sit the AS Level. In the L6th students cover topics on coasts, water and carbon cycles, migration and changing spaces. In the U6th we study power and borders, disease dilemmas and tectonics. Students start the NEA in the summer term of the L6th with a final deadline of October in the U6th.

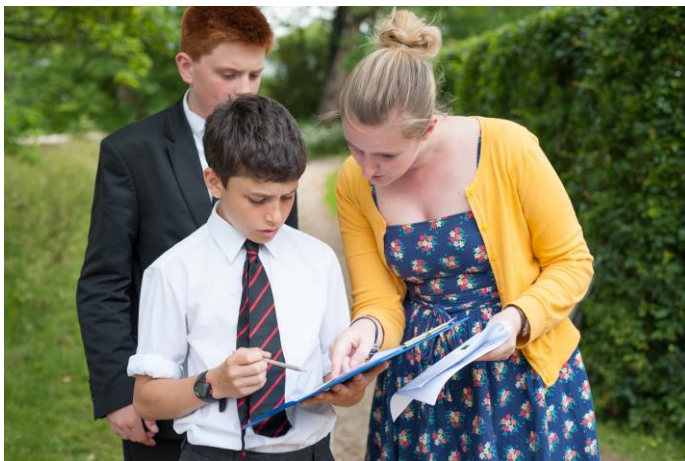




## Fieldwork

The department firmly believes in the value of fieldwork and offers an extensive itinerary every year. Pupils in the Second Form undertake a local study on the Cowley Road as well as a one-day Coastal investigation at Lulworth Cove. Third Form pupils travel to Coombe Hill to undertake a micro-climates study in the summer term. The Lower Fourth have a day in London to investigate urban regeneration and sustainability. The GCSE cohort undertakes a three-day fieldwork trip to Wales with the occasional additional, optional, weekend in the Lake District. In the L6th students spend four days based in South Devon and in the U6th there is a Changing Spaces day in London.

In addition, the department offers a number of more adventurous trips. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> forms travel biannually to Northumberland in May half term – next in 2020. The L4th & U4th travel annually during the Easter holiday: In Easter 2019 are returning to India for the biannual trip and in 2020 we are planning a return to Iceland – probably in the more isolated north east. Other recent destinations



have included SW USA, Morocco and Jordan. The Sixth Form also travel and have been to Cuba and Belfast, plans for 2019-2020 are in progress. A willingness to assist with this programme will be advantageous.

As well as teaching far beyond the confines of the syllabus, the Department regularly hosts talks as part of the

Geography Society and we attend a number of lectures presented by the Oxford Geographical Association and at Royal Holloway University. Alongside this we run a reading and discussion group for the Sixth Form and a Junior Geography club who have produced everything from Geographical games to glacial landscape models and globes! Many Sixth Formers choose Geography for their Waynflete Studies, the school's unique extended project, taught in conjunction with members of the university, and around 8-10 pupils go on to study Geography and related subjects at leading universities.



## **The Candidate**

This will be a full-time, fixed-term appointment and the successful candidate will be a well-qualified Geographer 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 Geography at MCS. Members of the Geography Department report to the Head of Department, and ultimately to the Master via the Deputy Head (Academic).

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.

## **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 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.

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**

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### **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.