



MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL
BOYS 7-18 & SIXTH FORM GIRLS

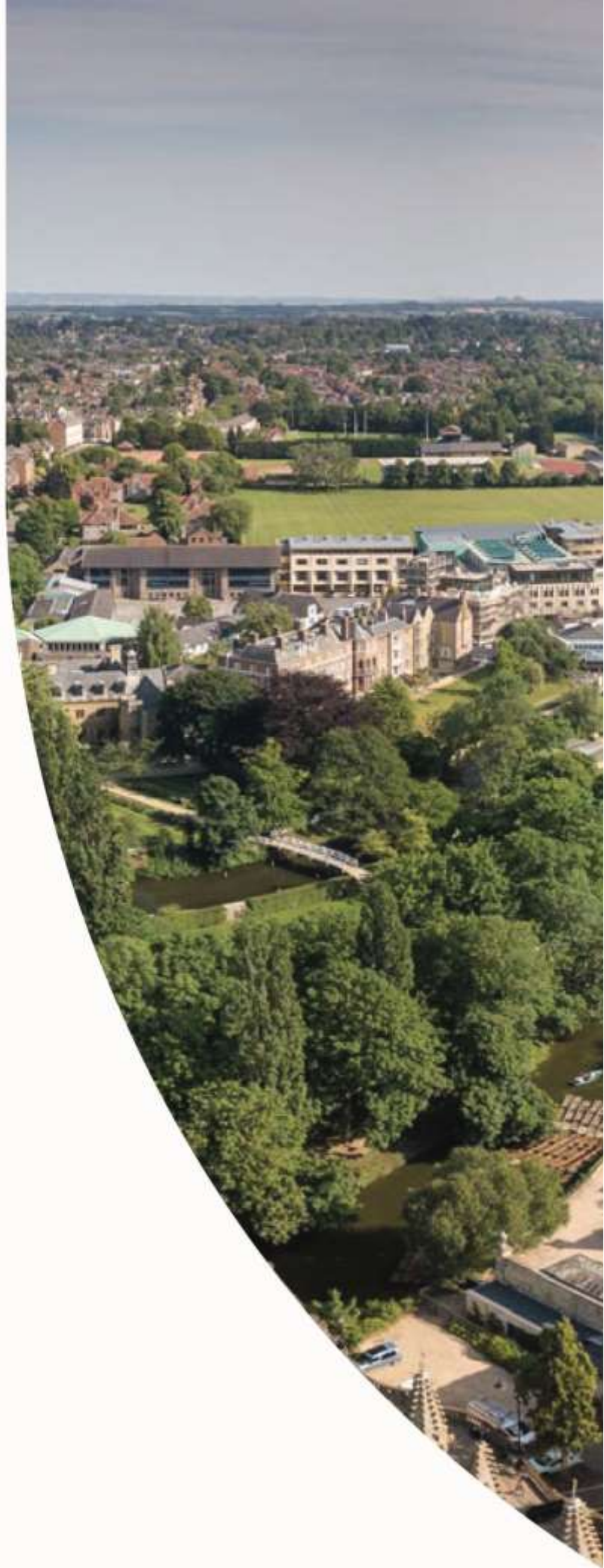
Information Pack

Teacher of Biology

1 year fixed-term contract
to start April 2021

Closing Date: Midday,
Friday 27th November

Interview date: Thursday
3rd December



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.

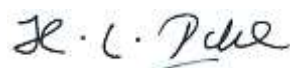


William of Waynflete founded Magdalen College School in 1480: schoolmaster, bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor of England. Being of humble origins, Waynflete was determined that others of ability should be given the opportunity to learn, to serve and to prosper as he did. And so MCS offers a transformative 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) including the recent [News](#) will give you an impression of our school.

Thank you for your interest.



TEACHER OF BIOLOGY

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 full-time Teacher of Biology from 19th April 2021 on a 1 year fixed-term contract (maternity cover), to teach bright and enthusiastic pupils Biology from Year 7 to A Level and Oxbridge. The role would be suitable for an experienced teacher, a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT), or someone without a teaching qualification, who might be interested in pursuing the School's Waynflete Teaching Certificate, which can lead to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

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). To access [click here](#). This should be emailed together with a cv and covering letter of application and addressed to the Recruitment Officer, Mrs Sarah Hunter, at email address shunter@mcsoxford.org. All documentation should be sent no later than midday, Friday 27th November. We anticipate holding interviews on Thursday 3rd December and will be in contact with shortlisted candidates 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.

As part of MCS' commitment to sustainability, preliminary interviews may be conducted online.

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.

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).

The Department

The Biology Department currently consists of six full-time and one part-time teacher who form a close-knit team which shares 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 and support the progress of all pupils studying Biology by taking a role in departmental support and enrichment sessions.



Biology is a well-established and particularly successful subject at Magdalen College School: the subject is well resourced and is liked and respected by pupils due, in no small part, to the dedication and ability of the staff in the Department.



Biology teaching takes place in a suite of well-resourced laboratories which are linked to the school network; each lab has an interactive screen and all teaching staff are supplied with a Microsoft Surface Pro for teaching. The Department is ably supported by well-qualified Laboratory Technicians. Reprographics are centrally administered and a full-time secretary to the Common Room is available to help in these areas. The subject is compulsory up to the Fifth Form (Year 11) when all pupils take the IGCSE examination (Edexcel). A large number of pupils – between a third and a half of the year group – go on to study Biology to A Level (OCR). These pupils are joined by a number of new students who enter the L6th from other schools.

The department achieves outstanding results in public examinations. In 2019, we achieved 73% Grade 9 at IGCSE (92% achieve 9-8). At A level 41% of grades were at A* and 84% of grades were A*-A. Each year four to six Sixth Form pupils gain gold certificates in the Biology Olympiad, and another 15-20 gain silver and bronze.

Biology in the curriculum

Second and Third Form (Years 7 and 8)

Biology is taught as a separate science from the Second Form onwards. The department has devised a bespoke course which links to the National Curriculum but also takes time to explore in more depth topics that the pupils find particularly interesting. 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 which encourage them fully to explore their understanding of the topics covered.



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 far beyond the confines of the syllabus, the Department runs a weekly Biology Society for 5th – U6th pupils, regularly hosting outside lecturers who come to school to speak to students on a variety of topics, in addition to a very popular Lower School Biology Club. We are committed to providing the broadest possible education, incorporating trips, visits and competitions wherever possible. There is a bespoke programme of classes and speakers for pupils preparing for the BMAT and applications to study medicine. Many Sixth Formers choose Biology or a science-related subject for Waynflete Studies, the school's unique extended project, taught in conjunction with members of the university, and a very encouraging number of pupils go on to study Biology and related subjects at leading universities.

The Candidate

The successful candidate will be a well-qualified Biologist who will be prepared to take a share of the teaching of the subject at all levels. Members of the Department report to the Head of Department, and ultimately to the Master, via the Deputy Head (Education Development).

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 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.

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.

MICHAELMAS 2020