



MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL
BOYS 7-18 & SIXTH FORM GIRLS

Information Pack

Head of Classics

Closing Date: midday,
Wednesday 3rd March

Interview Date(s):

Round 1 : Monday 8th March
(online)

Round 2 : Thursday 11th March
(likely to be in person)



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.



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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 Classics to manage and lead our outstanding Classics Department. Latin & Greek have a long tradition at MCS and have a very strong presence in the school. The appointment will be from 1st September 2021.

The Department

The Classics Department presently consists of six teachers (including the Head of Department) and a Waynflete Academic. Both Latin and Classical Greek are strongly established in the school, and all pupils study Latin in Years 7 and 8, with an option of continuing into Year 9 and beyond; Classical Greek can also be chosen from Year 9 onwards. Examination results in both Latin and Greek are excellent, with 100% of candidates in both classical subjects achieving Grades 9-8 at GCSE, and 92% (Latin) and 100% (Greek) achieving A* or A grades at A Level

in 2019. About 15-20 Sixth Formers choose Latin and 5-10 usually opt for Classical Greek at A Level; there are also around 40 boys who choose Latin at GCSE each year and 5-10 opt for Classical Greek at GCSE. A good proportion of pupils choose a classically-related subject for their Waynflete Studies (the school's unique extended project taught in conjunction with members of the University). Furthermore, a number of candidates per year are successful in gaining



places to read a classical degree at Oxbridge and other leading universities.



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The Department has three dedicated classrooms and a departmental office that contains a large library. The main language textbooks used up to GCSE are the *Oxford Latin Course*, *Taylor's Latin to GCSE*, *Taylor's Essential GCSE Latin*, and *Taylor's Greek to GCSE*. The main language course books used for A Level are *Taylor's Latin/Greek Beyond GCSE* with an array of additional materials available. The department makes use of supplementary reading resources and DVDs, and there are in-house extension booklets and courses used with various year groups. All teachers are provided with a Microsoft Surface and this connects wirelessly to an interactive screen in the classroom.

Additionally, there is an Ancient History club that runs for a range of year groups and a Latin Prose (and even Verse) Composition Club set up for Year 9 upwards (a Sanskrit club has also run in the past). Academic extension is provided by all staff but the Waynflete Academic provides specific preparation for University Classics and looks to extend and support a wide range of other students. Pupils taking a classical subject also usually have the opportunity to participate in a study trip to the Mediterranean during the first week of the Michaelmas Half Term; other enrichment opportunities, including talks by visiting speakers and visits to lectures/plays beyond the school, are arranged within the Department. An enthusiastic approach to fostering such (and other) enrichment activities will be advantageous.



The Candidate

The successful candidate will be required to teach from Year 7 to Oxbridge entrance level, and lead the day-to-day running of the Department.

The aim of the Classics Department is to infuse pupils with an enthusiasm for all classical languages, history, and culture while insisting on academic rigour. Each Classics teacher at MCS has an individual expertise and unique teaching style, yet the Department also places great importance on teamwork and collective input to produce the best results. The successful candidate will be expected to bring his or her personality and individual energy to the Department while also being able to thrive as a leader in an atmosphere of co-operation and collaboration.

Above all he/she will be enthusiastic about the subject as a whole and have a desire to sustain the high profile currently enjoyed by Classics at MCS. The Head of Classics will report to the Master via the Deputy Head (Education Development).

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 to the Recruitment Officer, Mrs Sarah Hunter, (applications@mcsoxford.org). All documentation should be sent no later than **midday Wednesday 3rd March**. 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.



We anticipate holding Round 1 Interviews on Monday March 8th, and Round 2 Interviews on Thursday 11th March. We will be in contact with shortlisted candidates by telephone. Round 1 Interviews will be conducted online. Round 2 Interviews will either be conducted in person or online depending on government guidance on the re-opening of schools. Candidates shortlisted for Round 2 will be expected to deliver an teach a lesson to pupils, either in the classroom or online via Microsoft Teams. Further information on the observed lesson and documentation required will be provided with the invitation to the Round 2 Interview.



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

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.



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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.