

JOB TITLE: **TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY**

REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Role commences: **September 2024**





REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Alderman Henry Smith founded Reigate Grammar School in 1675. For over 345 years, young people have been educated on the same site, in the heart of Reigate, a historic market town in the east of Surrey at the foothills of the North Downs in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

RGS is a leading HMC independent co-educational day school. It is a highly successful, happy and exciting school, which aims to provide a broad and balanced education to boys and girls that will prepare them for the modern world. The school song, *To Be a Pilgrim*, reminds our students that they are on a journey of noble purpose, to have an impact and to make the world a better place. We aim to educate the whole child and offer a broad range of experiences for all. We are an inclusive school and, built upon the vision of our founder, are committed to social mobility and the provision of bursaries through wider access and a supportive Reigatian community.

“Happy Kids Great Results” Good Schools Guide 2019

Reigate Grammar School caters for over 1050 students aged 11 to 18. Another 600 students are educated at Reigate St Mary's Preparatory and Choir School and Chinthurst School, RGS's junior and nursery schools – both recently shortlisted for UK Independent Prep School of the Year. RGS offers the very best academic education with equal prominence placed on the arts, sport and a rich extra-curricular programme. RGS has a distinctive educational philosophy and a strong ethos of pastoral care underpinning a well-rounded education. The House system has some clearly defined aims: for everyone to feel part of a team; to allow leadership to be nurtured; talent to shine; confidence to surge; teamwork to flourish; and competitive spirit to develop. In the school's academic culture of intellectual freedom, the structure of the curriculum means that students receive a strong grounding in core subjects but

can elect to pursue any area of interest. In the elective curriculum, one student may learn to trade stocks while another deepens their understanding of French literature. It is a challenging and balanced education, equipping students for the opportunities and demands of their future lives and allowing them to explore their personal passions.

The first line of the school's most recent ISI report asserts that 'the quality of the students' achievements and learning is exceptional': the first co-ed day school to achieve this rare accolade. RGS' approach to teaching and learning melds expert teaching knowledge with a modern, innovative approach to pedagogy with a judicious use of technology. Inspirational and personalised teaching and learning is at the centre of the vision and requires expert teachers. The school is one of a small number of world-class schools to have been a global pioneer in High Performance Learning, focusing on the development of global citizens, advanced performers and enterprising learners.

Outcomes at RGS are world-class with 86% of GCSE entries graded at 9-7 in 2023. A Level results are equally impressive, with over 95% of entries graded A* to B. 96% of our A Level students went on to Oxbridge, Russell Group and other top universities and medical schools. In 2019, RGS was named Independent School of the Year for Wellbeing and Pastoral Care at the TES Awards – the most important element of any great education – and also received the award of School of the Year for Community Outreach; in 2020 RGS was named Public School of the Year 2020-2021 by Tatler, the school Oscars; in 2021 RGS was named School of the Year in the UK Social Mobility Awards; and in 2023 RGS is a finalist in the Independent School of the Year Awards for Contribution to Social Mobility.

Shaun Fenton, Headmaster, acknowledged as one of the outstanding educational leaders in this country, was elected Chairman of HMC in 2018-2019 and most recently awarded an OBE by Her Majesty the Queen for Services to Education.





JOB DESCRIPTION

The Geography department is well established and the subject is highly popular at both GCSE and A Level. The department comprises seven full-time members of staff, each teaching throughout the school from Year 7 to Year 13. The department prides itself on its good working environment to which everyone contributes. Teaching is principally in the dedicated geography classrooms, each with an interactive whiteboard and nearly all students have their own digital device in addition to access to a shared suite of 24 laptops reflecting the importance of ICT in the subject. Extensive shared resources and workspaces are provided in the central and nearby geography staff room. Each department has its own IT advocate who works alongside the Head of Department to promote the use of technology.

Geography is taught as a core subject in Years 7 and 8, and as an option for GCSE and A Level. Years 7 and 8 use our own workbooks produced in the department covering a range of topics and skills.

Teaching of the GCSE begins in Year 9, a reflection of the high calibre of students at RGS. The three-year GCSE programme also allows excellent opportunity for academic enrichment as well as extensive support and intervention for those who need it. The GCSE syllabus is AQA Geography A (8035) with five sets in Year 9 and Year 10 and six sets in Year 11. Set sizes vary from around 20 students in junior classes and typically between 12 and 20 in GCSE classes.

We cover the AQA GCE A Level course (7037). There are currently three sets in both the Lower and Upper Sixth Forms (Years 12 and 13). Teachers can usually follow their particular subject specialisms at Sixth Form level, with the teaching broadly divided into human and physical topics. Set sizes vary from six to ten at this level.

All geographers contribute equally to the teaching of coursework and delivery of fieldwork opportunities, including residential trips. Recent visits have included Iceland, Norway and a joint trip with the Economics department to Shanghai in 2018 and 2019. In addition, we visit Cuckmere Haven, London's Olympic site, Brixton, Shoreditch, and our local area which is rich in fieldwork opportunities.

Results at both GCSE and A Level are impressive. In 2023, 58% of GCSE grades were awarded level 8/9 and at A Level, 76% were A/A*. The department has also scored particularly well in terms of "value added" between GCSE and A Levels. Every year a high proportion of RGS students apply to read Geography at university with as many as a third of students studying the subject choosing to continue with it into higher education.

Geography staff contribute extensively to the extra-curricular programme which includes a Senior Geography Society and a Missing Maps Club, as well as delivery of enrichment opportunities through the electives programme.

The successful candidate will be a graduate of a good university, able to demonstrate a sound subject knowledge, high academic standards, and an ability to enthuse pupils of all ages. A particular interest in human geography would be welcome but candidates with other interests should not be deterred from applying. Any particular interest in geographical enrichment including clubs for different age groups would also be welcome. The post would suit a newly qualified entrant or a more experienced teacher. Full induction to QTS is provided.

All teaching staff at Reigate Grammar School are expected to undertake a pastoral role, usually as a form tutor and to contribute to our extensive extra-curricular programme. ***There is the opportunity for a combined responsibility in both geography and sport for candidates with a passion and aptitude in both.*** In addition, a promoted leadership role in the academic or pastoral structure of the school would be available for the right candidate.



FURTHER INFORMATION

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Reigate Grammar School has its own salary scale which is substantially above the national scales.
- All teaching staff are automatically members of the pension scheme run by the Teachers' Pensions Agency which is transferable between all UK schools.
- Children of Teaching staff may be educated at Reigate Grammar School, Reigate St Mary's Preparatory and Choir School or Chinthurst School at substantially reduced rates. Candidates are invited to enquire about this at interview.
- Lunch is provided free of charge during term time.
- All staff have access to the school swimming pool and fitness room at designated times, free of charge.
- Successful applicants will be required to make an enhanced disclosure by the Disclosure and Barring Services and to complete an online Pre-Placement Medical Questionnaire.
- All shortlisted candidates will be required to complete a 'Suitability to work with children: self-declaration form'. This form must be completed, signed and returned to HR prior to the interview taking place.

SAFEGUARDING

This role will involve contact with children. Reigate Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All applicants should read the school's safeguarding policy (available on our website) and are required to declare any criminal convictions, cautions or disciplinary proceedings related to young people. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Services. Full details are given on the application form.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Reigate Grammar School is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from appropriately qualified persons from all backgrounds. We are dedicated to creating and sustaining an environment that values individuality and

difference and celebrates the diversity of both staff and pupils by fostering perseverance, tolerance and integrity. We believe in equal opportunity for everyone, irrespective of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation or socio-economic background. Candidates will be assessed against relevant criteria only (i.e. skills, qualifications, abilities, experience) in selection and recruitment. We know that more diverse teams are stronger teams, and that the more inclusive we are, the more our staff and pupils will feel a sense of belonging and will thrive.

APPLICATIONS

Applicants are asked to complete the Teaching Application Form and Supplementary Form (which are also available on our website) and send them with a supporting statement addressed to the Headmaster as soon as possible and by **Monday 29 January 2024, 9.00am** at the latest. Please do not send a separate curriculum vitae. Applications will be considered in the order in which they are received, and the school reserves the right to make an appointment prior to the closing date. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview.

Within your application letter we would be grateful if you could indicate where you saw this position, whether it was from the TES or another source.

Applications should be addressed to The Headmaster and sent (by letter or by email) to the address below.

Mrs Dawn Holmes
Head of Human Resources
Reigate Grammar School
Reigate Road, Reigate, RH2 0QS

01737 222231

hr@reigategrammar.org | www.reigategrammar.org

The post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the School is therefore permitted to ask job applicants to declare all convictions and cautions (including those which are "spent" unless they are "protected" under the DBS filtering rules) in order to assess their suitability to work with children.



SCHOOL LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

The RGS campus is on its original 1675 site in the historic market town of Reigate within an area of outstanding natural beauty. Adjacent to junction 8 of the M25, the school is also easily accessible from central London by train.

The school benefits from excellent facilities, including:

- A new £8m Sixth Form and Learning Resource Centre at the heart of the campus
- Drama studios and Music school
- Swimming pool
- 32 acres of sports ground with two floodlit all-weather hockey pitches, rugby, cricket and football pitches

The school is currently within the planning phase for the construction and development of a state-of-the-art sports centre on the town centre campus.

DIRECTIONS:

By Road

Reigate Grammar School and Reigate St Mary's Preparatory and Choir School are situated on the south side of the A25 about a quarter of a mile east of Reigate town centre, between Reigate and Redhill.

RGS postcode RH2 0QS
 RSM postcode RH2 7RN

Chinthurst School is situated in Tadworth, just north of junction 8 of the M25 close to the A217

Postcode KT20 5QZ

By rail

The school is approximately ten minutes' walk from Reigate station which is well served by direct trains from London Victoria, East Croydon, Guildford and Dorking. Frequent connections to Redhill station (about one mile away) allow access to Crawley, Horsham and towns to the south along with Nutfield, Godstone and Tonbridge to the east.

WHAT3WORDS

Main Reception: cabin.fire.brave

