



THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL

Appointment of Art Technician (0.6), term time only to start ASAP

Permanent

We encourage people from all sections of the teaching community to apply and particularly welcome applicants from groups which are currently under-represented in our workforce such as members of the global majority.



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For further information about The King Alfred School please visit our website at www.kingalfred.org.uk

1. THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL



For over 100 years, The King Alfred School [KAS] has stood for a nurturing and enlightened educational experience. Founded in 1898 by a group of parents uncomfortable with late Victorian educational practices, KAS was created to encourage learning for its own sake and to provide a well-rounded education that brought out the best in each child.

KAS still stands out from the prevailing educational environment as a school that achieves academic success without unnecessary pressures, and social success through the development of relationships and responsibility rather than external discipline. It is a school that is genuinely loved by students, parents and staff alike.

KAS has often been referred to as a "progressive" school. Certainly, it subscribes to many of the concepts of the progressive movement. We emphasise child-centred education, which aims to draw out the best in the individual child. We believe in the principles of mutual respect, of relationships based on trust rather than authority and punishment, and of allowing each child to develop at his or her pace. The school places a strong emphasis on creative and active learning and on the value of play. Informality is typified by the use of first names, the absence of uniform and as few rules as can be managed within a community.

The village green setting of the main site, next to Hampstead Heath, contributes to the community feeling. The school has about 700 students, from age 4 to 18. Most children will join at Reception and continue on to the end of their school lives. Transition from Lower to Upper School is a natural one and for KAS pupils does not depend on assessments, tests or examinations. We aim to provide a happy, compassionate environment in which the emotional, physical and social developments of the child are held in equal regard to academic progress.

A high teacher/pupil ratio enables the committed and professional staff to provide a rich variety of activities. Within a curriculum leading to successful preparation for GCSE and A levels, teachers strive to provide a broader and more generous education. KAS measures the success of its philosophy by the acknowledged maturity of the students when they leave, by their successful pathways on leaving school, and by the fact that students invariably end up doing something worthwhile, interesting or unusual.

KAS is committed to professional development and training for all its staff. New ideas from teachers are encouraged and there is active staff involvement in all aspects of the school. Staff are supported to pursue master's degrees, engage in action research projects, and connect with education professionals in this country and abroad.

The King Alfred School is situated on two beautiful sites. On the main site at Manor Wood, school buildings are spread around an open field; a number of mature trees from the original Manor Wood provide play and camp-building areas for the younger children and protection for a small amphitheatre. The facilities have been expanded considerably over the years, including the opening our new Sixth Form centre.



Curriculum Principles:

- Our curriculum is the total of all learning experiences inside and outside the classroom, and all staff are expected to contribute to the extra-curricular life of the School.
- We put the child at the centre of our teaching and learning. Intelligence will show itself in many different ways and we aim to educate in a way which will challenge and support each individual.
- Our curriculum aims to help students to make meaning of the world around them. We support our students to develop an awareness of spirituality and morality; an understanding of the importance and the limitations of inherited knowledge, culture and values; a sense of social responsibility; and an understanding of and preparation for the world of higher education and work.
- Our curriculum aims to enable our students to enjoy achievement and keep competition in perspective, valuing the intrinsic worth of actions and learning.
- While being aware of the National Curriculum, we are not constrained by it and take full advantage of our independence and our own rational, progressive traditions.
- We actively encourage opportunities for interdisciplinary learning, with opportunities for students to apply their skills and knowledge from a range of curriculum areas. This will be especially high profile in our Years 6 to 8 curriculum.
- It is our expectation that in Years 10-13 KAS teachers will use GCSE and A Level specification as a starting point but will aim to teach above and beyond examination requirements. We are also now questioning the future of GCSEs and are a leading member of the Rethinking Assessment group.
- Success in external examinations is a proven consequence of our approach but our truest measure of success is the fact that our students leave KAS as adults who are well-rounded, socially adept, emotionally resilient, inquisitive life-long learners, who are self-motivated, independent thinkers.
- Our curriculum is constantly evolving. A process of review and development informed by current educational research and thinking is embraced by our community of learners, teachers and parents.



2. Art and Design

The Post

We are seeking an Art Technician. This is an exciting opportunity in a very special place, and we are looking for someone with a passion for Art and strong practical skills to support a wide range of teaching and learning activities within the subject.

The Department

The Art Department is a leading department at KAS. We aim to make a difference by providing compelling and inspiring creative experiences for young people. Our purpose-built Art spaces include large studios, specialist practical rooms, and dedicated areas for printmaking, sculpture, photography and a continually operational exhibition space.

The department consists of four members of teaching staff of which are supported by a technician team. We also work with visiting artists who contribute to workshops and enrichment activities.

The Role

The post involves organising, running and maintaining the art studios and specialist equipment. This requires strong organisational and communication skills, as well as confidence in using and demonstrating a range of art-making tools and processes, including drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and basic 3D construction techniques.

Your work will support the teaching and curation/exhibition of art across both the middle and upper school. While the department has a strong foundation in drawing and painting, our curriculum also includes textiles, print, ceramics, digital media, and sculpture. We are increasingly focused on sustainable and inclusive artistic practice, and on giving students a full experience of creative production including contemporary methods.

Art is taught as a core subject until Year 9, after which students may choose to take the subject as a formal accreditation. It is a popular option both at GCSE and at A-level with many students continuing on to study the subject at some of the most competitive at schools.



3. JOB DESCRIPTION

Role	Art Technician
Line Manager	Head of Art

Job Duties

Technician – working with resources

- Organise and prepare materials, equipment and resources, and maintain a suppliers database, ready for lessons and learning to take place.
- Maintain a high level of organisation and tidiness within the workshops, including stock checks, placing orders and health and safety maintenance services.
- Manage health and safety matters in accordance with school policy and statutory requirements.
- Oversee the repairing of tools and maintenance of the machines.
- Contribute to the oversight of the Art yearly budget, updating budget costs regularly.

Technician – working in the classroom

- Carry out demonstrations to groups of students related to age context and ability.
- Identify and support individual student needs, both in small groups and individually, providing suitable feedback as needed.
- Assist students and staff on the technical aspects of practical work.
- Help curate and put up a range of exhibitions each year, as well as dismantling at the end of the year.
- Assist with the organising and running of the ceramics room, including glazing, recycling and kiln firing.

Whilst this job description outlines the main duties and responsibilities of the post, each individual task undertaken may not be identified. Employees will be expected to comply with any reasonable request from a manager to undertake work of a similar level that is not specified in this job description.

It is understood that areas of responsibility can evolve in the light of the needs of the school and the professional development of the staff. This job description may therefore be periodically amended after joint review with you.

4. PERSON SPECIFICATION

Attributes	Essential
Qualifications & Experience	• Relevant experience of managing workshop equipment and health and safety matters. • A skilled designer and maker, with proven knowledge and experience of using fine art materials. • Relevant experience of managing budgets. • Experience of working with young people in a formal or informal education setting. Desirable • Personal artistic practice / qualifications • Experience in curation / installation of artwork / ceramics
Personal attributes	• Strong organisational skills. • Good communication and people skills and a willingness to work as part of a busy and creative team. • Working with precision and attention to detail. • Welcomes feedback and accountability. • Analytical and self-reflective. • Good standard of written and spoken English. • Ability to establish successful relationships with students, parents, and colleagues. • Sets and maintains high standards in professional relationships with both young people and colleagues.
Commitment to	• The KAS ethos, and child-centred progressive education. • Working in a 'can-do' culture with a commitment to continuous improvement. • The happiness, well-being, and progress of all at the school. • The importance to the role of art within the school curriculum.

5. TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

- Colleagues are auto-enrolled in the Support Staff Pension Scheme.
- The appointment will be made subject to successful references and DBS check.
- The post is part-time (0.6) and permanent.
- All new staff have a probationary year.

