

CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

TRAINEE TEACHER OF CHEMISTRY

WELCOME

I am delighted that you are considering this opportunity at North London Collegiate School.

This is an exceptional opportunity to contribute to a community that is redefining excellence in girls' education. The [Sunday Times](#) Parent Power Guide 2026 has recently named NLCS the *Independent Secondary School of the Year 2026*, and we are proud to be ranked the No. 1 girls' school in the country. This prestigious accolade reflects our outstanding academic achievement as well as the depth, breadth, and vibrancy of school life.

With additional awards for *Independent International Baccalaureate School of the Year 2026* and *Independent Secondary School of the Year in London 2026*, NLCS offers an inspiring environment where passionate teachers are empowered to innovate, spark curiosity, and help girls achieve remarkable things.

NLCS was founded in 1850 by Frances Buss, an early pioneer of girls' education. NLCS is one of the country's most illustrious academic day schools.

The School provides an ambitious academic education and achieves some of the best results in the country. The focus in the classroom is on fostering a deep love of learning and our teachers are passionate subject experts. The School has a strong intellectual tradition but it is also defined by an ongoing commitment to innovation. The school's new innovation hub is a centre for creative thinking and pioneering curriculum development.

Pupils benefit from an exceptional range of activities beyond the classroom through our co-curricular and academic enrichment programmes. We welcome over 250 visiting speakers per year, we offer 18 different sports, host over 40 concerts and several ambitious dramatic productions each year, publish multiple student-led magazines, and offer activities as varied as Model United Nations, Chess, VEX Robotics and Magic Club.

Our pastoral care is focused on developing happy, independent and resilient young women. Our pupils are free to be themselves at School but ready to embrace the opportunities of the world beyond NLCS. Our community is welcoming and inclusive and celebrates its rich diversity.

At NLCS, we deeply value our staff and are committed to their well-being and professional growth. We understand that a supportive and nurturing environment is crucial for everyone, not just our students. Our comprehensive staff development programme and strong support network ensure that our staff thrive both professionally and personally.

We are looking to appoint a Trainee Teacher of Chemistry to join us from April or September 2026, or earlier if available. Our ideal candidate will be passionate about Chemistry and enthusiastic about inspiring students to explore and understand the world through science. Applicants should hold, or be working towards, a minimum of a 2:2 Bachelor's Degree in a relevant subject and be committed to ongoing professional growth.

We warmly welcome applications from recent graduates and those seeking a career change into teaching.

If you would like to become part of our friendly and dynamic community of pupils and staff, I would be delighted to receive your application.



VICKY BINGHAM
HEADMISTRESS





THE SCHOOL



North London Collegiate School has an international reputation for academic excellence, combined with exceptional pastoral care and extra-curricular achievement. NLCS is an academically selective girls' school. There are 790 students in the Senior School, 233 of them in the Sixth Form, and approximately 310 in the Junior School. The School takes pride in the religious and social diversity of its intake.

The School's aims are to provide an ambitious education for all its pupils and to enable each girl to make the most of her own gifts. The highest priority is to maintain a team of professional teachers to whom each pupil is important, and who can teach their subject(s) with enthusiasm and drive. All pupils are expected to learn to recognise academic excellence and realise that it is attainable.

Alongside these aims for the classroom, staff strive to make school a place where the whole personality can grow. Good relations between staff and pupils, and between girls themselves, are fostered. At NLCS, education is much more than passing examinations and the girls are encouraged to try themselves out in a variety of ways. Staff strive to maintain a community which is tolerant and teaches service to others.

Set in over 30 acres of parkland, the School has extensive facilities. These include a new Wellbeing Centre which underlines the School's commitment to ensuring that NLCS continues to provide as rounded and supportive a pastoral offering as is possible.

In 2025, 83.4% of GCSEs were a grade 9, and a notable 95.9% of grades were 9/8. At A-Level our students achieved an impressive 54.3% A* grades, 86.1% A* - A and 96.1% A* - B. In addition to A-Levels, we offer the International Baccalaureate in the Sixth Form and we have an outstanding record of success. Our students gained an average point score of 42.94 in 2025, placing us again among the best IB schools in the world.

Places are heavily oversubscribed, and entry is extremely competitive.

Our leavers receive offers from an impressive range of university destinations including Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Yale and Princeton, as well as other leading universities such as Warwick, Edinburgh, UCL and Imperial. We are extremely proud of our alumnae (Old North Londoners), who have achieved international prominence in a wide variety of career pathways from music, drama and the arts through to science, sports, politics and law.

We have an extensive schedule of extra-curricular activities including a weekly speakers' programme for all students in Years 11, 12 and 13. NLCS students regularly reach the finals of national and international competitions, such as F1 in Schools, chess, Young Enterprise, coding and debating.

There is also a remarkable commitment to outreach and charity work, reflecting the rich and harmonious diversity of the School.

To find out more about the school, click [HERE](#).



TRAINEE TEACHER OF CHEMISTRY

THE OPPORTUNITY

We have an excellent opportunity for either a career changer or recent well qualified graduate to train as a Teacher of Chemistry at North London Collegiate School (NLCS).

Here at NLCS, we are committed to supporting colleagues that wish to begin a career in teaching, either as a first job following graduation or switching to teaching from another profession. We have an established partnership with the [University of Buckingham](#) through which we offer an on-the-job route to qualification, with no prior teaching experience required.

We welcome applications from ECTs or anyone new to teaching and are happy to support new colleagues through teacher training in order to achieve QTS. We can offer an April or September 2026 start date (or sooner for the right candidate).

THE ROLE

Chemistry teachers at NLCS work hard to bring the subject to life, teaching with infectious enthusiasm and are experts in their field. The Chemistry department is a busy and dynamic department, with approximately 100 students studying the subject in Sixth Form. Teachers collaborate to craft their lessons to ensure that all students are supported in developing a deep understanding of the subject and enjoy the intellectual satisfaction that comes with further understanding the world around them. With support and training, the successful candidate would add to the wider life of the department through the various extracurricular activities on offer.

Suitable candidates will have the highest aspirations for their students' work and academic outcomes.

THE CURRICULUM

We are an ambitiously selective school. All three Sciences are thriving option subjects for students at Sixth Form and Biology, Chemistry and Physics are popular and successful subjects at NLCS. As with all curriculum areas, Key Stage 3 students go beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum. In Year 7, pupils study Science, moving to the study of separate sciences in Year 8 and above. At GCSE, students study the Edexcel IGCSE course in all three sciences separately.

In Sixth Form both higher level and standard level courses are taught as part of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, alongside CAIE international A-Level.

THE DEPARTMENT

The school is forward-looking both in terms of technology and pedagogy. The post holder will be trained to provide a curriculum fit for purpose in the 21st Century and will lead the department in the innovative provision of Science.

The department is well resourced with well-equipped laboratories and a prominent position within the school. The academic staff in the department are skilled subject specialists and committed and dedicated to teaching their subject with passion and enthusiasm.

ENRICHMENT

The Chemistry Department currently offers numerous extra-curricular clubs and enrichment activities. Student societies play a pivotal role at NLCS, the Science Department run several of these including: Medical Society, Pure Sciences Society, Engineering Society, Environmental Awareness, Animal Welfare and the ever popular Science Café. Science Café is a regular lecture series where researchers are invited to speak to Year 10 to Year 13 students about advances in their field.

In addition to the traditional Science enrichment, the department runs a fortnightly Chemistry Club. The students also participate in the Chemistry Olympiad and Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, with a number of students achieving a Gold award each year.

All members of staff are expected to make a contribution to the extra-curricular life of the department and of the School.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & DEVELOPMENT

As a trainee teacher you will learn whilst working in the classroom, fully supported by a Mentor along with participating in a blended learning programme provided by a team of experienced practitioners working with the School and The University of Buckingham. You will be assigned a Tutor employed by the University who will visit you and work with you throughout the year. This course will support you as you develop your identity as a teacher and help you to find and refine your own teaching style.

In addition to this, you will find a strong culture of professional development at the School, rooted in the expectation that all staff proactively seek to develop their practice throughout their time with us.

A fortnightly Teaching and Learning Forum offers staff the opportunity to present and discuss pedagogy. In addition to this, there are regular guided lesson observations with senior members of staff, to encourage colleagues to think critically about their own teaching and experiment with new approaches.

Internal promotion and professional development posts are advertised to all staff. In addition, the School also offers a number of generous external opportunities for staff, to expose them to wider educational experiences. The School works closely with The Prince's Teaching Institute, investing in "unlimited" membership of the PTII, which offers our staff the opportunity to attend their full programme of events.

It is important for our teachers to refine their knowledge to further enhance the academic rigour of their lessons. To this end several of our academic staff lead PTI sessions in their own specialist areas.

As part of the wider Senior School, staff benefit from being able to attend the Senior Societies lecture series given by eminent speakers. Staff are also encouraged to share their passions through our Nicholson Lectures series. Colleagues present their own research on areas of academic or personal interest. These lectures occupy a prestigious place in our academic calendar, occurring fortnightly and are well attended by staff and students alike.

Following the opening of five partnership schools, NLCS Jeju (South Korea), NLCS Dubai, NLCS Singapore, NLCS Vietnam, and NLCS Kobe, staff in the UK have opportunities to be involved in monitoring visits to these overseas schools, and to be involved in the recruitment and training of their staff.

Teaching departments in all the schools are linked via Communities of Practice, which provide a forum for collaboration on projects between teachers and students, sharing of good practice and exchange of ideas.

All of these opportunities enable colleagues to become better and more rounded academics and teachers, and our staff relish the chance to get involved in such activities.





KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

With training and support you will work toward these key responsibilities:

TEACHING

To be responsible for the quality of the teaching and learning of all pupils who are assigned to the post holder

To plan and teach well-structured lessons to assigned classes, following the school's plans and curriculum

To assess, monitor, record and report on the learning needs, progress and achievements of assigned pupils

To participate in arrangements for preparing pupils for any examinations

To ensure, in conjunction with the SENCO, that the provision for students with Additional Learning Needs is in place and is effective

WHOLE SCHOOL ORGANISATION, STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT

To contribute to the development, implementation and evaluation of the school's policies, practices and procedures, so as to support the school's values and vision

To make a positive contribution to the school's vision and values

To work with others on curriculum and/or pupil development to secure excellent outcomes

HEALTH & SAFETY

To be aware of and comply with policies and procedures relating to child protection, health and safety, confidentiality, security, data protection; and report all concerns to an appropriate person

To promote the safety and wellbeing of pupils

To maintain good order and discipline among pupils, managing behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment

RELATIONSHIPS

To collaborate and work with colleagues and other relevant professionals within and beyond the school

To develop effective professional relationships with colleagues

RESOURCES

To monitor quality and standards of resources

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To take part in the school's appraisal procedures

To take part in further training and development in order to improve own teaching and overall performance

Where appropriate, take part in the appraisal and professional development of others

COMMUNICATION

To communicate effectively with pupils, parents/carers, colleagues, wider school community and governors.

The postholder will also be required to undertake any other duties as reasonably required by the Head / Deputy Heads / HoD



THE PERSON

The successful candidate will demonstrate strong communication skills, warmth and empathy. They will have a high level of organisational and interpersonal skills, be committed to maintaining the nurturing and supportive ethos of the school, and be an enthusiastic, caring and positive role model within the School community.

GENERAL SKILLS REQUIRED

Excellent interpersonal and management skills, with the ability to relate well to people on all levels, to encourage and motivate, and to show ambition for the School and its direction

Clarity of thought and an ability to express ideas and arguments in a thoughtful and analytical manner

Ability to work effectively as a member of the team, to show initiative and imagination and to have vision and the ability to inspire others

First class organisational and administrative skills with the ability to remain calm under pressure and to work to tight deadlines, managing competing priorities

Strong analytical and problem-solving skills, combined with a proactive and positive approach

Ability to maintain a high work rate and to juggle a range of tasks and issues at the same time with good humour and a positive rationale

Commitment to developing a high level of classroom teaching skills and maintaining those standards

Excellent written and spoken English

PERSON SPECIFICATION

It is highly desirable that applicants have the following attributes

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

Strong academic qualifications in a relevant subject (minimum a Bachelor's Degree in a related subject 2:2 or above).

Further study beyond degree level

CHARACTERISTICS

You will:

Be passionate about your subject and the opportunity to train as a teacher

Be flexible, motivated and resilient

Strive to display and uphold the NLCS Core values, demonstrating that you are committed, optimistic, research-engaged and effective

Have consistently-high standards of personal and professional conduct

Maintain high standards in ethics and behaviour both within and outside school

Have the resilience to cope effectively with a variety of situations and the energy and stamina to thrive in a School that offers an ambitious highly academic education.

Uphold public trust in the profession

Be able to attend work and carry out tasks punctually in a regular and consistent manner

OTHER

Personal integrity, honesty, energy, stamina and enthusiasm

A sensitivity to the needs of young people and a commitment to their support, care and nurture
Willingness to give generously to support School events and activities

Have an easily recognisable yet realistic enthusiasm for working with children and young people, treating them with dignity, being able to build relationships rooted in mutual respect, whilst at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to your professional position

Commitment to personal development and life-long learning

Wider interests that could contribute to the extra-curricular life of the School

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY



North London Collegiate School condemns unequivocally discrimination and inequality in all its forms.

Our School was founded on the principles of respect and compassion, service to others, and active, positive participation in society and the wider world. We cannot change the past, but we must learn from it. It is not sufficient to say that we are not racist – we must be actively anti-racist in our actions, policies and educational delivery. As a school, we are proud of our heritage of supporting, embracing and celebrating all the members of our community, as exemplified in our School Aims.

We recognise and celebrate the benefits of having a diverse school community, in which individuals value themselves, one another, and the different contributions that everyone can make to the school, our wider community and the world.

Our students are taught to value and respect themselves and others as they work hard to prepare to take leading roles in our future society.

In the provision of equal opportunities, the School recognises and accepts its responsibilities under the law and opposes discrimination based on the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

We oppose all bullying and unlawful discrimination on the basis that a person has a special educational need or learning difficulty, or because English is an additional language. We are committed to being an equal opportunities education provider, and to equality of opportunity for all members of our school community.

North London Collegiate School aims to ensure that all policies and practices conform with the principle of equal opportunities and comply with the public sector equality duty set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

We will tackle inappropriate attitudes and practices through our staff leading by example, through the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme, through our supportive school culture and through our school's policies. Our teaching will reflect the diverse nature of our modern world and we will seek through our extracurricular activities, partnerships and School societies to challenge inequality and inequity, promulgate fairness and equality for all and to celebrate the differences that make us all unique and valuable members of society.

We believe that our School community is an agent for change in the world, and we continue to seek to ensure that more generations of young people leave North London Collegiate School empowered and enabled to take the next steps forward in their education and lives for their own benefit and for the good of society as a whole.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

KEY DATES

Closing date for applications:

Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.00am.

Interview Date:

Long List Interviews will take place over Teams on Thursday 15th January 2026.

Short List Interviews will take place in the school on Monday 19th January 2026.

SALARY

Highly competitive salary, paid according to experience and qualifications.

START DATE

Required from April or September 2026, or sooner.

PENSION

All teaching staff members are currently eligible to join the Teacher Pension Scheme.

LOCATION

NLCS is a short walk from Canons Park or Stanmore stations.

Staff arriving at Edgware Station on the Northern Line can use our free Station Shuttle-bus service.

For further information please visit our Travelling to School page [HERE](#).

MEALS

A free lunch is available for all staff during term time. Thomas Franks, our dedicated caterer, accommodates all dietary requirements.

EYE CARE SCHEME

We partner with Specsavers and all staff are eligible for a free two-yearly eye test. Should you require glasses following your test, specifically for the use of a VDU, you will receive a reduction on the cost of a pair of glasses.

CYCLE TO WORK SCHEME

The School is a member of the Cycle to Work Scheme, which allows staff to make Tax and National Insurance savings when purchasing a bicycle.

CANONS SPORTS CENTRE

Canons Sports Centre is located in the beautifully landscaped grounds of NLCS. Staff have free access to the Sports Facilities at designated times. This includes the Fitness Studios, Swimming Pool and Multi-Purpose Sports Hall.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Our Performing Arts Centre which has a 350-seat theatre holds up to 40 productions and concerts each year. Tickets are available to staff with the majority of performances being free or at a discounted price.

FEE REMISSION

A teacher's daughter that meets the entrance criteria is eligible for 60% fee remission for the first daughter and 30% for the second. The remission is pro-rated for part time staff.

HEALTH CARE SCHEME

Staff are eligible to be part of a discounted health insurance scheme

DISCRETIONARY LEAVE

To support your work life balance and well being, we offer generous paid Dependency, Religious Observation and Special Leave.

SAFEGUARDING

NLCS is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all members of all staff to share this commitment.

Applicants must declare any criminal convictions as the post is exempt under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Appointments will be conditional upon the receipt of a satisfactory response to a check of police records via the Disclosure and Barring Service and references from previous employers.

We are an Equal Opportunities employer.



