

LOOKING

FOR

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STAHS

PREP SENIORS SIXTH

HEAD OF PSYCHOLOGY

Closing deadline: Monday 20 April 2026

NEW

CHALLENGE?

THE DEPARTMENT

The Psychology Department is well established and successful. It currently consists of 2 dedicated teachers who, as a team, enjoy exploring new ideas, producing and sharing resources and ensuring that pupils are given as many enriching opportunities as is possible. In recent years, pupils have enjoyed a 'Brain Day' with Guy Sutton, a 'Behind Bars' Forensic Psychology conference, a trip to the Freud Museum and a BPS 'Careers in Psychology' online event. In addition, all pupils have access to a dedicated Psychology website, which contains their lesson resources and extension materials, as well as up-to-date university, personal statement and career information. We aim to create an environment that encourages independence and inspires a lifelong love of learning Psychology.

The Department's uptake of pupils studying Psychology is strong with 3 classes in Year 12 and 3 in Year 13. With these numbers, Psychology is one of the most popular A level subjects on offer at STAHS. We are particularly proud of the large proportion of our Year 13 pupils who have chosen to study Psychology at university, as well as the great numbers of Year 12 pupils who are already keen to pursue careers as Clinical, Forensic or Educational Psychologists. With these career paths in mind, we have chosen to study Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology and Cognition and Development as our optional modules, as per the AQA A Level specification.

Beyond A level Psychology, we run a Sixth Form Stretch programme where we meet with pupils who are keen to study Psychology at degree level on a weekly basis. They are provided with challenges designed to improve the depth and breadth of their psychological knowledge, as well as ensuring that they are able to produce impressive personal statements that stand out from the crowd.

In addition, we run a series of co-curricular clubs including 'PsychFlix', where we watch and discuss psychology-based documentaries, as well as clubs dedicated to putting on fundraising events to raise money for mental health charities. We also host an annual film event for the whole of Year 11 around Christmas, where we have watched and discussed, for example, 'A Beautiful Mind' and 'The Wave'. The aim is to help pupils lower down in the school with no knowledge or experiences of Psychology to better understand what this discipline involves, with the hope of sparking their enthusiasm to study Psychology at A level, as well as ensuring that they are able to make an informed choice when the time comes.

THE ROLE

The Head of Psychology will report to their Senior School Leadership Team line manager.

The postholder will be an outstanding classroom teacher who will play a key role in the academic life of the School. The successful applicant will be passionate about Psychology and lead by example in delivering teaching and learning within the Department. The postholder will demonstrate outstanding leadership with a clear vision for developing a world class curriculum and co-curriculum that meets the STAHs vision of Challenge for All and Teach to 25. Experience supporting applicants to related higher education courses is desirable.

The Head of Psychology will be required to take a form tutor role and contribute to the co-curricular life of the Department and school.

This is a permanent position, offered on a full-time basis. The start date for this position is September 2026. A January 2027 start will be considered for the right candidate.



RESPONSIBILITIES

All Heads of Department are appointed by the Head and are expected to:

Leadership

- Advise the Head and Deputy Head Academic on the future development of education in Psychology at STAHS.
- Liaise closely with the Deputy Head Academic and the Director of Studies on curriculum requirements for the successful teaching and learning of the Department.
- Take responsibility for the implementation of school policies within the Department.
- Draw up annual budget proposals for the Bursar and Deputy Head Academic to meet the needs and development priorities of the Department and monitor the budget spend.
- Develop and refine long and short-term development plans.
- Hold regular Department meetings.
- Manage the use of Departmental classroom accommodation to create an effective, stimulating and safe environment for teaching and learning.
- Ensure the effective and efficient administration of the Department, including ensuring adherence to Health and Safety measures and resource management.
- Represent the subject in various school forums as requested, including Heads of Department meetings.
- Participate in any marketing initiatives as required.

Teaching and Learning and Curriculum

- Co-ordinate and ensure the delivery of stimulating, challenging and relevant lessons which promote scholarship and independence.
- Ensure the teaching and learning in the Department meets the needs of all pupils.
- Develop and deliver stimulating, challenging and relevant schemes of work.
- Support and promote the School policies of assessment and marking.
- Use analysis of pupil data to support the monitoring and evaluation of pupil progress, supporting pupils as required.
- Monitor and evaluate the standards of achievement and the quality of teaching in Psychology through methods such as lesson observation and reviewing pupil work.
- Foster collaboration with other Departments to improve teaching and learning.
- Collaborate with the Head of Higher Education to ensure pupils have access to a comprehensive programme of support with university applications, including for Oxbridge, any entrance assessments, interview preparation and the leading of 'University Stretch' sessions.

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RESPONSIBILITIES (Continued)

Staff

- Develop appropriate strategies for the professional development and performance development of all members of the Department.
- Provide colleagues with support in the adoption of new strategies in order to secure best teaching practice and the best educational experience for the pupils.
- Mentor new staff, including the induction of new teachers and support of Early Career Teachers.
- Line management of colleagues in the Department.
- Encourage delegation of responsibilities as appropriate.

In addition to the above, the post holder will carry out any other professional duties as reasonably required by the Head.

The High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will be required to fulfil all of the duties, as outlined in the job description. In addition to this, the candidate should possess the following competencies which are essential to this position:

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Experience as an excellent classroom teacher.
- Relevant degree level qualification.
- Post graduate professional qualification
- Strong level scholarship in a Psychology specialism.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to promote a mutually respectful working environment.
- Excellent organisational skills, with a high level of efficiency, planning and strategic foresight.
- Excellent communication skills, particularly when addressing staff, pupils or parents directly.
- Confident in the use of ICT, and the ability to learn quickly when using unfamiliar packages.
- The ability to work flexibly, using own initiative and prioritising effectively.
- The capacity to work accurately under pressure with attention to detail.
- Strong problem solving ability.
- Excellent presentation skills, including the ability to chair meetings and present new initiatives to staff, pupils and parents.
- Ability to understand and work with complex processes.
- Excellent command of the English language.
- Confident and creative practical skills.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- The ability to handle situations with discretion, tact and diplomacy.
- Emotionally intelligent, with a strong understanding of how teachers work in a high-achieving school.
- An ability to maintain confidentiality at all times.
- High levels of personal and professional integrity.
- High degrees of self-confidence, personal energy and dynamism.
- Personal warmth, good rapport with pupils, colleagues and parents.
- A personal love of the subject and a love of learning.

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHOS

- A commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.
- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children.
- A commitment to the ethos and strategic direction of the school.
- Strong support for the School's mission and values.
- Be a good role model.