



STRATFORD GIRLS'  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Appointment of  
Head of Computer Science

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES



# A welcome from the Headteacher

JACQUI CORNELL

Based on my experience of working across several types of schools in the secondary sector, I truly believe that Stratford Girls' Grammar School is an exceptional place to work - as a teacher, associate staff member or leader.

Our students are incredible. They are highly able and they are open to ideas. It is enjoyable to teach and lead here. Within this learning environment, students thrive because of the challenge that we present to them in all areas of school life. On the back of this, our results at both GCSE and A-level reflect what is at the core of our community – relationships, bags of belief in what is possible and a sense of adventure!

We are proud of being a grammar school. Our setting provides kindred spirits – both staff and students - who are united and bonded in their drive to broaden their

understanding of the world. We encourage all to be ambitious for themselves and their peers.

We are not defined by being a girls' school. Our young people are an eclectic group of individuals and we ask our staff to reflect that in their curriculum planning and delivery. Bright students excel at lots of things. Our offer deliberately encourages them to use their energy and talent in a myriad of different ways so that by the time our students reach the sixth form, their achievements are extremely impressive.

Our students love to learn from each other, the adults they mix with and those beyond our gates. Community is strong here, and is particularly noticeable through our House system, but equally through our celebrations of each other's culture and success.

There is no denying that being in education is tough. The pressures on the system are high and the workload that schools now manage to secure the best outcomes in all areas for the young people in our care is much greater than it was before the pandemic.

As a grammar school, we are not immune to these factors and it would be unwise to think that we are free from the standard issues faced by secondary schools. But these challenges make us stronger, more resourceful and pragmatic in what we do as a business, and what we do as educators: these are students who have invested time and effort to be part of our school ahead of joining us.

As Headteacher, my commitment is to give our students the best possible experience. We know that the environment that we create shapes them as individuals and ultimately their futures.

My vision since joining the school, and especially since becoming Headteacher has been to maximise the potential in all our students and staff. Our Outstanding judgement in all areas was an endorsement of all that has been achieved so far, but there is still more to do.

There is real opportunity here for you to make a difference, with people who are just as invested as you will be. If this is what you are looking for in your next role, then I encourage you to read the rest of the particulars, and thank you for your interest in our school.





# ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Stratford Girls' Grammar School is a highly successful selective 11-18 school with 854 students currently on roll. The standard student number in Years 7 to 11 is 120. This year there are 244 students in Years 12 and 13. Our priority circle for admissions includes south Coventry, Banbury, Solihull, and Pershore. Our diverse student body enriches our community, making it a dynamic and exciting place to learn and grow.

The school has an excellent reputation based on examination results, a progressive approach to educational development, and a strong sense of community. The school is well known for academic excellence, both locally and nationally. In November 2022, Ofsted judged us as outstanding. The standards that students achieve at every level are exceptionally high, and the students' personal development is excellent.

*'Shaping Futures' runs through the heart of Stratford Girls' Grammar School. This shared ethos is seen in everything students and staff do. Students achieve exceptionally well...All students, including those in the sixth form, are extremely well prepared for life beyond school.'*

*Ofsted Report*



Our exam results in 2025 were once again exceptional at GCSE (86% Grades 9/7) and at A-level (82% Grades A\*/B). We add good value, which we are proud of considering the high starting points of our students: Progress 8 was 1.07 last year. The 2025 Times Parent Power results awarded us as the Best State School in the West Midlands. The quality of destinations of our students is also outstanding, with ever increasing numbers successfully applying to Oxbridge and others gaining places on high quality, degree level, apprenticeships.



Staff retention is very high and we support flexible working arrangements as appropriate, which brings the benefit of experience and a good understanding of our context. Regular staff wellbeing surveys indicate that people enjoy working here because of the students and also the adult community. Visitors and those new to the school always feedback that everyone is helpful and friendly. Many staff live locally, others travel from Birmingham, Worcester, Banbury and Walsall, which speaks for itself. People may have expectations about the educational background of staff who teach in a grammar school. Our staff group is as eclectic as the students: several colleagues having been in industry before teaching. A good degree and a teaching qualification is what we all have in common: a passion for teaching and learning is what unites us.

We became a stand-alone academy in August 2011 and moved at the same time to vertical tutoring. Our pastoral care is a real strength and is often cited as a further reason why parents and students choose and recommend us. We are outward-looking, value breadth and encourage students to take up a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities. Parent support for the school is very good: 97% of our parents would recommend us to other parents. The school also benefits from an engaged Governing Body.



The school is located in the small village of Shottery on the outskirts of Stratford-upon-Avon, just ten minutes easy distance from junction 15 of the M40 and less than an hour from Birmingham, Coventry and Worcester. It is based in the grounds of Shottery Manor, a fifteenth century manor house which accommodates our sixth form. The school buildings are quite compact, which gives it a friendly feel, and the entire site is arranged around a very attractive central lawn.

We are always looking for ways to enhance the facilities for our students. The school has expanded considerably since converting to a stand-alone academy. In 2015 a £3.5m project facilitated a re-modelled assembly hall, kitchens, dining room, full-size sports hall, fitness suite and changing rooms, Drama studio, three classrooms, offices and school reception.

This development followed soon after a £1.5m extension comprising six classrooms, offices and a new library. Several successful CIF bids have also allowed us to update the school with new windows and doors, heating systems, fire alarm system and a new roof on the Manor. The refurbishment of the last three 1950s Science laboratories was completed in Summer 2023, and the upgrading of the windows in the Manor House was completed last year. The outside spaces for students are now our focus with parent support.

We are committed to being a digital school. Our staff and students benefit from reliable and robust IT systems. We are bringing in digital screens in the classrooms, while we look to introduce one to one devices for our students and integrated use of Microsoft 365 into all elements of our administration and teaching and learning. This includes the use of OneNote, Teams, and SharePoint.

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In addition, all teaching staff have laptops that can wirelessly project lesson content and use digital ink to capture notes. These laptops are configured with a VPN, allowing seamless working from home should you wish. Our staff and students benefit from and expect reliable, robust IT systems. We are now working on our next digital strategy which will ensure that we meet the challenges and opportunities of new technology.

Our most recent development has been to partner with four local secondary schools to form an alliance: Alcester Academy, Alcester Grammar School, King Edward VI School Stratford and Shipston High School. The Three Rivers Alliance was launched in January 2024 and we are already seeing the benefits of working together for our staff and students.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Further details about the school can be found on our current website ([www.sggs.org.uk](http://www.sggs.org.uk)). Our Instagram (@sggslife) is another excellent source for a feel of the school. Examination results for 2025 are available on the website, and our most recent Ofsted report is available there too.



*"Something that I think makes this school so special is the ability to be you. There is every type of person here and you will always be accepted for who you are."*

*Year 8 Student*



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# MEET THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

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**JACQUI  
CORNELL**

*Headteacher*

Jacqui manages Whole School Leadership and Development. She joined the school as Deputy Head in 2010 and became Headteacher in September 2016.



**JON  
BLACKWALL**

*Deputy Head*

Jon oversees Curriculum and Learning at SGGS and was appointed as Deputy Head in 2018.



**GURD  
UBHIE**

*Assistant Head*

Gurd joined us in 2024 and heads up the Student Progress and Development at SGGS.



**SUSAN  
FRATER**

*Assistant Head*

Susan has oversight of Staff Development and our outreach work in the local and wider area.



**CLARE  
WEBSTER**

*Business Manager*

Clare is responsible for Strategic planning, quality assurance and management of all Business aspects. Clare joined us in 2023.



# ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

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Computing is a thriving and well established subject at Stratford Girls' Grammar School, with a strong record of success and increasing popularity across all key stages.

The school is well resourced with high specification desktop and laptop computers. Every classroom is equipped with either an interactive whiteboard or a data projector, and ICT-rich flexible learning spaces are used widely across the curriculum. Our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) approach supports independent learning and ensures students can access high quality digital tools throughout the school day.

The department is housed in a dedicated computing suite featuring state-of-the-art retractable monitors, allowing the space to be used flexibly for both theory and practical work. A wide range of specialist equipment is available to enhance learning, including Lego NXT Mindstorm robots, Raspberry Pi devices, retro computing resources, and a collection of donor PCs used for hands-on computer building lessons. The school has also invested in immersive technologies such as the HTC Vive Virtual Reality headset and a high performance gaming PC, enabling students to experience cutting-edge digital environments and interactive simulations.

Computing is taught weekly throughout Key Stage 3, providing a strong foundation in programming, computational thinking and digital literacy. At Key Stage 4, students follow the OCR GCSE Computer Science course. Outcomes are excellent, and uptake continues to grow each year as more students choose Computing as an option. At Key Stage 5, the OCR A level Computer Science course is delivered, with students achieving strong results and progressing to competitive STEM pathways.

Technology is used purposefully across the school. Staff access their teaching resources via school laptops, classroom PCs and secure remote desktop connections. MS Teams is used as our learning platform, supporting collaboration, communication and high quality digital teaching.

# ABOUT THE POST

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We are seeking an enthusiastic, well qualified and inspiring teacher of Computing who is ready to lead a small but high performing department. This is an excellent opportunity for a talented practitioner looking to take the next step into subject leadership, or for an experienced Subject Leader wishing to work in a school with motivated students, supportive colleagues and exceptional behaviour for learning.

The successful candidate will bring strong subject knowledge, creativity and the ability to model excellent classroom practice. They will lead the direction and continued development of Computing across all key stages, ensuring high expectations, curriculum ambition and rich opportunities for students.

The successful applicant will oversee the department and teach the majority of classes. As Subject Leader, the postholder will be responsible for curriculum planning, assessment, tracking of student progress, enrichment, and the strategic development of the subject.

A commitment to wider school life is essential. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to our extensive extracurricular offer, whether through clubs, competitions, workshops or enrichment events, and will also serve as a tutor within our vertical tutoring system.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Those who wish to apply can do so by following the link here from the school's website using [MyNewTerm](#).

Please complete the application form online. A written statement in support of your application will be accepted but we do not consider CVs.

If you have any questions regarding this vacancy or wish to visit the school, please contact Joanne Betts, PA to the Headteacher, in the first instance on **01789 293759** or at **HeadsPA@sggs.org.uk**.

**Application deadline:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at noon

**Interviews** are due to be held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

# THE INTERVIEW

Detailed arrangements will be sent to those invited for interview, but the following elements are likely to be part of the process. They are provided at this stage for information only and are subject to revision.

Our usual practice in school is for all candidates to arrive at the same time and take part in activities in a group or on a rota basis. Interviews will be on an individual basis. These activities may include:

- meetings and discussions with the Headteacher, the Business Manager and other key staff as appropriate
- tour of the school and site with student leaders
- individual interviews with panels, which may include students and/or staff
- practical activities (e.g. in-tray exercise, teaching and learning planning, assessment task)
- observed discussion with others for leadership posts
- formal panel interview.

The formal interview: before the interviews the selection panel will agree on the interview format. The questions asked will be aimed at obtaining evidence of how each candidate meets the requirement of the job description and the person specification. Each candidate will be assessed against all of the criteria for the post. The same areas of questioning will be covered for each applicant and no questions which would discriminate directly or indirectly on protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 will be asked. The selection process for every post will include exploration of the candidate's understanding of child safeguarding issues and their suitability for the role in relation to the safeguarding criteria in the person specification. Candidates will be asked about the most recent safeguarding training. The interview will also include a discussion of any convictions, cautions or pending prosecutions, other than those protected, that the candidate has declared and are relevant to the prospective employment.

## STAFF DRESS

At Stratford Girls' Grammar School all staff should wear clothing which:

- promotes a positive and professional image.
- is appropriate to their role.
- is not likely to be viewed as offensive, revealing, or sexually provocative.
- does not distract, cause embarrassment or give rise to misunderstanding.
- is absent of any political or otherwise contentious slogans.
- is not considered to be discriminatory.
- is compliant with professional standards.

The expectations are that:

- male teaching staff are expected to wear a jacket and collared shirt, and female teaching staff equivalently smart attire with a jacket. Ties are optional.
- staff are expected to dress appropriately; all staff should set a good example to students in what they wear, avoiding clothing that is overly casual or revealing.

## SAFEGUARDING

The personal safety, emotional well-being and social development of students at SGGS is at the heart of our school ethos. Sustaining a vigilant culture of safeguarding awareness across the school, with clearly understood and defined systems for raising concerns, is of paramount importance and underpins all professional conduct and practice.

All associate and teaching staff are regularly trained and empowered to deploy their professional curiosity and are tasked with adopting a 'it could happen here' approach to any concerning presentation or conduct by a student, member of staff or visitor in school.

We advise you that in line with KCSIE 2025 requirements, we will carry out online searches on all shortlisted candidates. This school is committed to safeguarding, equality of opportunity, and promoting the welfare of children and young people. An enhanced DBS check will be required.

## PRIVACY NOTICE

Information about how we handle your data can be found on our website.

