



Queen  
Elizabeth's  
School

FOUNDED IN 1573

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK**

**Teacher of Geography  
required for September 2026**





## Welcome from the Headmaster

Thank you for considering an application to join us as **Teacher of Geography** at Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet. We are seeking an exceptional candidate, who relishes the opportunity of playing a significant role in taking our Geography department forward from its present strong position into an exciting future.

For more than 450 years, boys have benefited from a Queen Elizabeth's School education. We are a selective school with a meritocratic ethos, committed to developing pupils' intellectual abilities and unashamedly celebrating academic accomplishment.

Ofsted has judged the School to be 'Outstanding' in all areas, following an inspection carried out in May 2022 – the sixth consecutive time QE has been awarded the highest grading.

QE is the reigning Sunday Times State Secondary School of the Year for 2026. This was announced in December 2025 when we also won the national awards for Academic Excellence and A-levels. The School places first in the national state school rankings, which combine GCSEs and A-level performance.

Proud as we are of our stellar examination results, there is much more to QE than that, as is made clear in our formal mission "to produce young men who are confident, able and responsible".

We nurture habits of genuine scholarship that take boys well beyond the classroom curriculum. We provide a plethora of exciting and worthwhile extra-curricular activities. And we inculcate a spirit of service, encouraging Elizabethans to give time to causes greater than themselves. QE offers, as the Good Schools Guide report puts it, "an exceptional and rounded education that even private schools would struggle to match".

At Queen Elizabeth's, we aim to provide a state education like no other. If you can help us in this endeavour, I look forward to hearing from you.

**Neil Enright**  
Headmaster







**The School**



# Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet

## A highly successful and very well-run grammar school

QE offers a highly rewarding working environment, where staff thrive on teaching and guiding some of the most able young men in the country to fulfil their considerable potential.

Our examination results at GCSE and A-level consistently place QE among the very best schools nationally. Moreover, we encourage boys to pursue their intellectual interests through an extensive academic enrichment programme. QE also offers extra-curricular activities in areas as diverse as music, drama, sport, chess and robotics. All boys are expected to participate in the wider life of the School. Pupils regularly win awards at the national and even international stages of competitions.

The firm foundations underpinning the School's academic and extra-curricular achievements are reflected in its five consecutive "outstandingly successful" Ofsted reports. The School is heavily oversubscribed; large numbers attend our annual open day and sit the entrance examination. There are presently 1,298 boys on the roll, with a full complement at all ages from Year 7 through to Year 13, and a Sixth Form of about 350.

In a typical year, 90% of Year 13 leavers win places at Russell Group universities, while a higher proportion of our pupils go on to Oxford or Cambridge than from any other state school in the country. Despite all the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, QE has continued to flourish. Forty-nine Elizabethans were offered places at Oxford or Cambridge in January 2025, taking the total over the past three years to 157.


In September 2025, we launched a new strategy plan, Boundless, setting out where we wish to be by 2030. This school development plan draws inspiration from our rich heritage, while re-imagining our mission for a world that is rapidly changing.

### Further information:

- [The School brochure](#)
- [Our mission](#)
- [Boundless](#)
- [School performance](#)
- [Ofsted report \(May 2022\)](#)







*“Queen Elizabeth’s is making the top spot in our annual rankings its own and our award this year recognises that sustained excellence.”*

Alistair McCall, editor of *The Sunday Times Schools Guide*, *Parent Power*, announcing QE as State Secondary School of the Year.

  
**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

**SCHOOLS GUIDE  
2026**

**STATE  
SECONDARY SCHOOL  
OF THE YEAR**



# Thriving from ancient roots

## Celebrating our 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023

We were keen to celebrate the significant milestone of our 450th anniversary in 2023. The start of the anniversary year was heralded by a royal visit from HRH The Duke of Gloucester in late 2022.

On the day of the anniversary itself, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023, a service of thanksgiving took place in Westminster Abbey. Attended by all the boys and by hundreds of others, including staff, governors, alumni and parents, it was a day to remember for the whole Elizabethan community.



Our professionally produced 450<sup>th</sup> [anniversary video](#) provides a whistlestop tour of our fantastic year. Great memories, and all to the soundtrack of international composer Howard Goodall's anthem, And Be It Known, commissioned for the Westminster Abbey thanksgiving service and performed by the Chamber Choir in a special recording session.



1573 — 2023





## Leadership & Governance





## The Governing Body

Queen Elizabeth's Governing Body was established by the Charter of 1573 which founded the School. The Governing Body is ultimately responsible for the performance of the School, setting its overall strategic direction and ensuring that the highest standards of education, safeguarding and financial probity are maintained.

Our experienced and talented Governors bring to bear their considerable professional experience in business, finance, the law, the media, and the civil service, as well as a range of educational institutions, to provide constructive support and challenge to the Headmaster and the senior leadership team.

**Further information is available from the [School website](#).**





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## The Senior Leadership Team

The Headmaster and his senior colleagues drive the School's further progress in order that it not only meets today's challenges, but anticipates those of the future – whilst at all times preserving the traditional aspects of the School's ethos which have enabled its enduring success.



**Neil Enright** MA (Oxon), MBA, NPQH, FRSA was appointed the 40th **Headmaster** of Queen Elizabeth's School in September 2011. He attended The John Lyon School in Harrow and read Geography at St John's College, Oxford. In September 2002, two years after he started teaching, he came to QE, and has remained here since. His voluntary roles include governorships at schools in the state and independent sectors.



**Anne Macdonald** MA, **Deputy Head (Academic)**, read Geography at Cambridge and then worked for The Basic Skills Agency and the Learning and Skills Development Agency. She is responsible for curriculum development, the quality of teaching and learning, and continuing professional development.



**Tara O'Reilly** BEng, our **Deputy Head (Operations)**, and Company Secretary has many years' experience of managing business teams and leading digital development. Before joining the School in 2020, she spent nearly 16 years with the BBC.



**David Ryan** BA, MEd, **Deputy Head (Pastoral)**, read English and American Literature at Warwick. After graduating, he took up his first teaching job at QE in 1997. He has remained here ever since, working in various positions of increasing seniority. He is the Designated Safeguarding Lead at QE.



After graduating in Classics from St Andrews, **Crispin Bonham-Carter** MA, NPQSL, **Assistant Head (Pupil Involvement)** spent a decade as a well-known actor and theatre director. Before coming to QE to take up his current position in 2019, he taught for ten years at Alexandra Park School.



**James Kane** BA, PGCE, NPQSL, NPQH, who joined QE as **Assistant Head (Pupil Destinations)** in September 2022. He took his first degree at the London School of Economics and has remained in the capital since, working in positions of increasing seniority at schools in Lewisham, Newham, Harrow and Stratford.



**Sarah Westcott** BSc, MA, PhD, **Assistant Head (Pupil Progress)**, completed her PhD at the National Institute for Medical Research, before taking a research fellowship with Cancer Research UK. Since joining the School in 2008, she has completed an MA in Educational Leadership and a Postgraduate Diploma in special educational needs leadership.



**Michael Noonan**, BEd, was appointed **Head of Digital Teaching and Learning** in 2023 to provide leadership capacity to the development of the School's digital education, having served as Head of Technology since 2017. Having created the Digital Literacy course at QE, he is working to ensure digital skills are built right across the School's curriculum.



Having read Chemical Engineering at the University of Nottingham, **Chief Finance Officer Reena Pandya** BEng, ACA, began her career in banking and then went on to qualify as a Chartered Accountant. Before taking up her current post at QE in April 2022, she was Head of Finance at AIM-listed Safestay Plc.



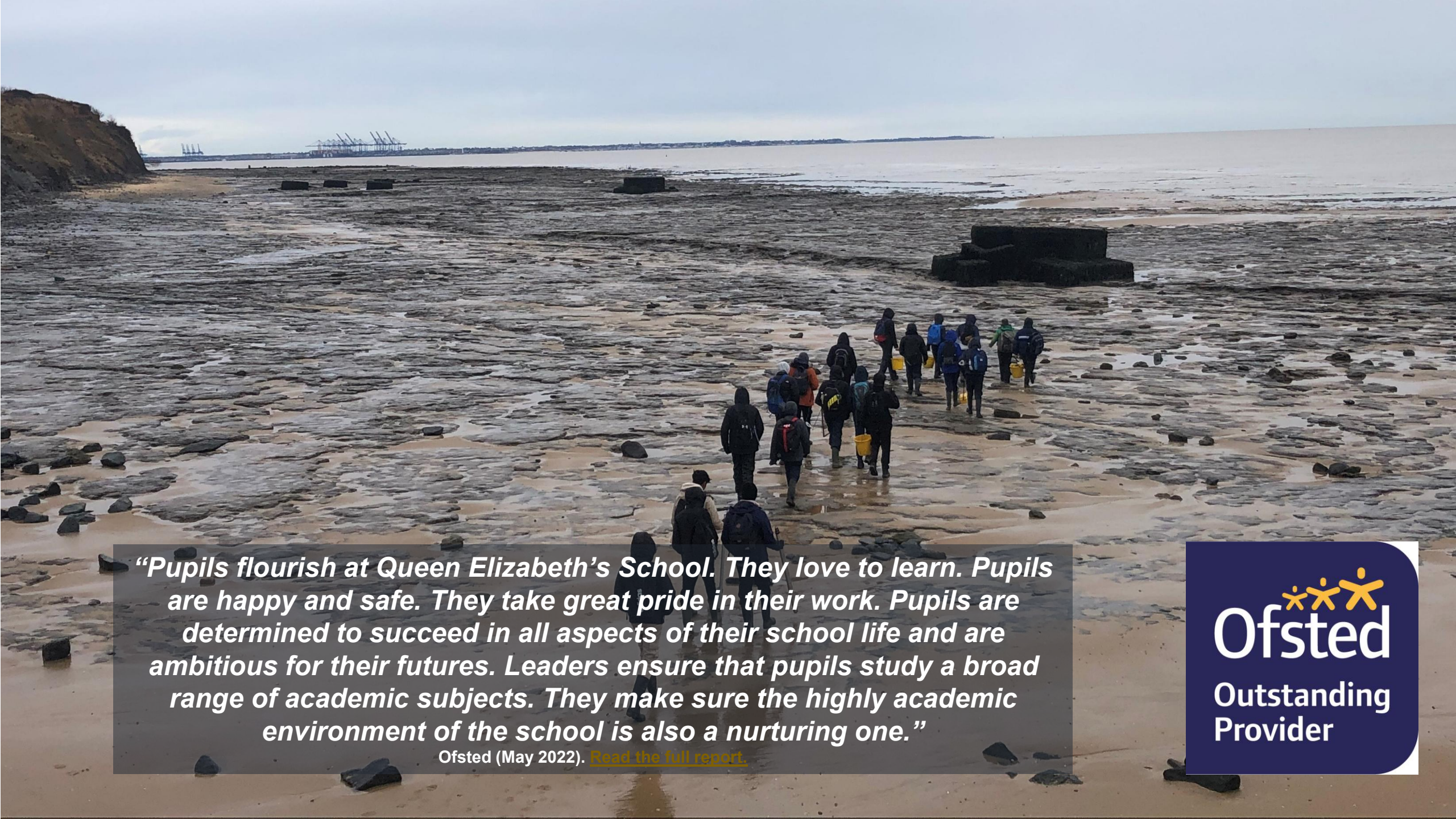
**Matthew Rose** MA, **Head of External Relations/Executive Assistant to the Headmaster**, the 2008 School Captain, returned to QE in 2016 after working as a political advisor in local government. His responsibilities include School policies, governance arrangements, marketing & communications, alumni relations and emerging strategic initiatives.





**The Geography Department at QE**



A wide-angle photograph of a school group walking along a rocky, wet beach towards the sea. The pupils are dressed in outdoor gear, and some are carrying yellow buckets. In the background, there are large concrete structures in the water and a distant shoreline with industrial cranes under a cloudy sky.

***“Pupils flourish at Queen Elizabeth’s School. They love to learn. Pupils are happy and safe. They take great pride in their work. Pupils are determined to succeed in all aspects of their school life and are ambitious for their futures. Leaders ensure that pupils study a broad range of academic subjects. They make sure the highly academic environment of the school is also a nurturing one.”***

Ofsted (May 2022). [Read the full report.](#)

The Ofsted logo features three stylized human figures in orange, each with a star above its head, positioned above the word 'Ofsted' in white.

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Provider



# The Geography department

Geography is a broad-based subject. It is inherently multidisciplinary in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills needed to work across the physical and social sciences.

At QE, boys are provided with an expansive geographical education that is up-to-date and relevant; they thus learn to recognise the value of Geography in tackling many of the challenges the world currently faces.

We aim to engender a spirit of enquiry, nurturing in pupils an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of Earth's physical and human environments, and the interrelationships between them. Geography thus teaches boys a particular way of viewing the world, enabling them to consider issues from a holistic perspective and to reflect upon their own place in society – on their values, their rights and their responsibilities towards other people and the environment.

In lessons, we foster higher-level thinking skills such as synthesis, analysis and critical evaluation. We make the criteria for success very clear, and boys are expected to undertake frequent self-assessment and assessment by their peers. A range of teaching methods is used, including debates, presentations, mystery tasks and group work. ICT is employed throughout teaching, including the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) such as Google Earth and ArcGIS.

Classroom learning is complemented by fieldtrips, which give pupils the opportunity to consolidate and extend their geographical understanding by relating their classroom learning to real-life experiences. In time, boys – particularly those who go on to study the subject at GCSE and A-level – become skilled at planning, undertaking and evaluating fieldwork. At A-level, fieldwork demands a high degree of responsibility from the pupils, which develops their independent research skills and report-writing.







QE geographers enjoy a very large number of extra-curricular opportunities. Fieldtrips include international visits, such as our annual tour for younger boys: destinations have included Iceland and Switzerland. Also for Years 7-9, there is the weekly GeoHeroes club as well as the lunchtime clinics providing additional academic support.

The Geography Sixth Form Society is frequently addressed by invited speakers from leading universities. Other Sixth Form opportunities include attendance at Royal Geographical Society lectures.

Competitions are a popular aspect of Geography at QE. Boys in Years 8-10 compete against other schools in the Geographical Association Worldwide Quiz. We also have a strong record in the Young Geographer of the Year Competition run by the Geographical Association.

Pupils applying to universities are offered visits, discussion seminars based on university-level reading materials, guidance on where to apply, assistance with personal statements and help in preparing for interviews.

- ***Read more about the School's curriculum [here](#).***
- ***Read more about our vision for a diverse and inclusive curriculum at Queen Elizabeth's [here](#).***
- ***Read more about our digital strategy [here](#).***







## The Role



# The Role

Reporting to the Head of Geography: Mr Chris Butler.

We are looking for an outstanding classroom practitioner who has the ability to motivate and stretch able boys, instilling a genuine enthusiasm for geography and related disciplines.

This is an exciting opportunity to join an ambitious department and to help shape its future development.

Applications are welcomed both from those with a formal teaching qualification and from those who are yet to embark upon teacher training. For candidates without a teaching qualification, there would be an opportunity to work towards Qualified Teacher Status following the School's bespoke programme of training and support, accredited by the University of Buckingham.

The successful applicant will have a strong academic background and will be able to teach across the full range of our ability.

Our ambitions for our pupils go much further than exceptional outcomes in public examinations. We seek not only to ensure that QE boys gain a thorough mastery of the requirements of the curriculum, but also to cultivate in our pupils effective habits of independent learning and of deep academic curiosity. In short, we are committed to **free-thinking scholarship**.

Our new Teacher of Geography will need to be able to work alongside the existing team to maintain standards whilst ensuring that boys' enthusiasm for the subject is encouraged through stimulating lessons complemented by a wide range of co-curricular activities. All teachers at Queen Elizabeth's are encouraged to play a full part in the wider life of this thriving School.







**How to apply**



# Application and Appointment Process

“Staff appreciate the efforts of leaders to support their well-being.” *Ofsted, 2022*

Applications should be submitted online through our dedicated recruitment portal accessed from our website. To apply for this particular post, please [click here](#).

Please note that CVs alone will not be accepted.

Any questions regarding the position or our application and recruitment process should be directed to [recruitment@qebarnet.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@qebarnet.co.uk).

**CLOSING DATE: 9am, Monday 26 January 2026.**

We are an equal opportunities employer. Queen Elizabeth's is a dynamic school supported by a diverse and enthusiastic community of staff, pupils, parents and alumni. It is important that our staff reflect the diversity of our community, and we therefore welcome and encourage applications from people of all genders and sexual orientation, those from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds, and from those with disabilities.

Queen Elizabeth's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service.

Our new **Teacher of Geography** will be expected to take up post in September 2026.

On the interview day candidates will be observed teaching a sample lesson.

The interview process will also comprise a blend of formal and informal meetings.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate at interview:

- Outstanding subject knowledge.
- Genuine enthusiasm for working with young people.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Excellent administration and organisational skills.
- A commitment to educational excellence and the ethos of the School that will help to ensure our pupils thrive.





