



JOHN LYON SCHOOL

Lead Teacher of History & Politics

START DATE: September 2026 or January 2027

HEAD'S WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in joining our team here at John Lyon School.

As a leading co-educational independent school in North West London, we are proud to offer an exceptional all-through education for pupils aged 2 to 18. Many of our pupils begin their journey in our pre-nursery or Prep school and progress confidently into the Senior School and Sixth Form, emerging as well-rounded, intellectually curious, and socially responsible young people, ready to make their mark on the world.

At the heart of John Lyon is an enduring belief in the individual potential of every pupil. We are deeply committed to academic excellence, but equally to the development of character, creativity and resilience. Our classrooms are places of challenge and encouragement, where pupils are inspired by expert teachers to inquire deeply, think independently and strive for excellence.

Our School Values: Ambition, Community, Creativity, Enquiry, Excellence, Heritage, Innovation and Resolve, shape our culture, inform our teaching, and define the experience of those who study and work here.

Our pupils flourish not only in academic disciplines but through a rich and varied co-curricular programme. Sport, STEAM, music, drama, leadership and service opportunities are integral to school life and central to the holistic education we offer. As a Microsoft Showcase School, one of just 82 in the UK, we also place a strong emphasis on digital innovation, ensuring our pupils are prepared for the evolving demands of the modern world.

John Lyon is part of a broader educational ecosystem through John Lyon's Foundation and the Harrow Family of Schools, including Harrow School and its international network. This distinctive connection offers our staff and pupils a wealth of collaborative opportunities and global perspectives, enhancing the educational experience in powerful and meaningful ways.

This is an exciting time in the School's development. We are growing, evolving, and continually raising our standards to deliver the exceptional facilities, inspiring environments and comprehensive care our parents expect and our pupils deserve. If you are inspired by our mission and would like to contribute to the next chapter of our journey, we would be delighted to receive your application.

John Lyon is a warm, ambitious and forward-looking community. Our school environment is a deeply rewarding place within which to work, and both staff and pupils are encouraged to grow, achieve and thrive. Those who join us become part of a collaborative culture grounded in shared values, where passion for hard work and a commitment to excellence is celebrated and supported.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Rose Hardy
Head



ABOUT JOHN LYON

Founded in 1876, John Lyon School began as a day school for local boys in Harrow and the surrounding areas. It was established following the success of Harrow School, which John Lyon founded in 1572 after receiving a Royal Charter from Elizabeth I to create a free grammar school for children and youth. Over the past 150 years, the School has become co-educational and now provides an all-through education after merging with our Prep school (formerly Quainton Hall).

THE COMMON ROOM

John Lyon has a very friendly and diverse Common Room with a mix of colleagues living locally, in London and as far afield as Hertfordshire, Bucks, Berkshire, Essex and Surrey. Many academic staff join the School straight from university whilst more experienced staff have taught in either Independent schools, state Schools or both. The Common Room runs a termly programme of wellbeing activities which is well supported by academic and support staff.

This includes theatre trips, celebratory meals, yoga, charity quiz nights and fixtures in archery, football, cricket, hockey and golf.

OUR ETHOS

John Lyon has a richly deserved reputation for providing an excellent all-round education that combines high academic standards with excellence in Sport and the Arts and outstanding pastoral care. The School is a friendly and purposeful place. Learning is both broad and deep, and we offer a unique education that embraces opportunity and excellence both within and beyond the classroom. At John Lyon every pupil matters.

OUR VALUES

John Lyon has a clear set of values that are vital to our community. Our values shape who we are, what we do and how we do it. Each value is woven into School life and our admissions process. Our Values are tangible and meaningful; they enable us to promote and teach a set of principles to our pupils that will help them thrive as happy individuals.



AMBITION



EXCELLENCE



INNOVATION



RESOLVE



HERITAGE



COMMUNITY



ENQUIRY



CREATIVITY



Lead Teacher of History & Politics

Reports to: Deputy Head (Academic)

JOB DESCRIPTION

THE DEPARTMENT

History is a popular and successful subject across all year groups at the School, with many pupils choosing to continue their studies at IGCSE, A-Level and beyond. The department follows the Edexcel International GCSE specification (4H11) and the Edexcel A-Level specification.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum stimulates broad interest in the subject by covering pivotal moments in history, including the Middle Ages, the Tudor and Stuart monarchs, and the First World War. The IGCSE course focuses on the 20th century, exploring the wars fought during this period, their geopolitical impact, and the significant social changes that followed. Topics include Russia 1914–24, Germany 1928–45, the USA 1945–74, and Changes to Medicine 1848–1948. At A-Level, pupils revisit Tudor England, explore Luther's challenge to the Catholic Church, and study race relations in US society.

Politics is an increasingly popular A-Level choice at John Lyon, with many students progressing to study the subject at prestigious universities. Following the Pearson Edexcel specification, the department combines rigorous academic study with lively discussion and debate. Students achieve excellent results and engage enthusiastically with current affairs, taking part in mock elections and contributing to a growing History and Politics Society.

The department benefits enormously from the School's proximity to many of London's historical sites, with recent visits including Hampton Court Palace, the British Museum and the Tower of London. Warwick Castle is a popular day trip for our Year 7 pupils, and we are planning a visit to the battlefields, memorials and cemeteries of Northern Europe in the coming year. As part of the global Harrow Family of Schools, the School also hosts an annual Year 9 exchange with Harrow Bangkok, during which pupils deepen their understanding of the Second World War in Asia through visits to the Bridge over the River Kwai and the Hellfire Pass. In addition, the department runs a number of societies for different age groups, enabling pupils to explore areas of history and politics beyond the taught curriculum.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

I. Leadership:

- Lead the History & Politics department with enthusiasm and subject expertise, inspiring a love of learning and ensuring departmental practice aligns with the strategic vision set by the Deputy Head (Academic).

- Drive high academic standards and maximise student achievement in History & Politics.
- Promote a culture of reflective teaching within the History & Politics department, encouraging staff to engage with current educational research and innovative pedagogies.
- Model outstanding classroom practice in History & Politics to inspire, guide, and develop teaching staff.

2. Teaching and Learning:

- Lead the ongoing development of a rich and challenging History & Politics curriculum, from Year 7 to Upper Sixth, updating schemes of work and teaching resources.
- Ensure that schemes of work are thoughtfully designed, inclusive, and regularly reviewed.
- Track pupil progress and skill development in History & Politics, intervening where necessary to ensure that all pupils are supported both in and outside the classroom.
- Ensure effective assessment within the department and the development of examination skills, enabling pupils to maximise their potential in end-of-year examinations.
- Use baseline data and enhanced results information to drive departmental improvement.
- Monitor the quality of teaching and learning through regular lesson observations and departmental work scrutiny.
- Work with the Learning Support department and the Excellence Team to ensure all pupils are supported and encouraged in their learning.
- Engage with the School's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programme through the department's curriculum, co-curricular activities and visits.

3. Staff Management and Development:

- Line manage all History & Politics teaching staff.
- Assist with recruitment, induction, and professional review processes for History & Politics teaching staff, ensuring high standards within the department.
- Chair weekly History & Politics department meetings.
- Engage with professional development, both informally and through CPD and Staff Professional Review processes, to maintain and enhance teaching excellence.
- Identify and address training and development needs for History & Politics teachers, proactively supporting their growth and effectiveness.

4. Academic Enrichment:

- Ensure appropriate co-curricular activities, including educational visits, are offered to pupils in every year group.
- Lead a dynamic and engaging enrichment programme for Sixth Form pupils and support pupils preparing for entrance examinations to competitive universities.
- Promote History & Politics within the wider school community, including liaising with the Prep School.
- Engage in cross-curricular activities with other Senior School departments.

5. Operational Responsibilities:

- Manage the History & Politics departmental budget responsibly.
- Oversee risk assessments for departmental events and activities.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attend regular Heads of Department and staff meetings and training sessions.
- Represent the School and department at *School in Action*, Open Day, and Open Evening events.
- Be available as a tutor to an assigned tutor group and to carry out related duties in accordance with the general job description of Form Tutor.

GENERAL DUTIES

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
 - Act in accordance with the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and complete all required training.
 - Promote the welfare and safeguarding of all pupils at all times, taking appropriate action where concerns arise.
- Confidentiality and Data Protection
 - Handle sensitive information discreetly and in line with GDPR and School policies.
 - Maintain confidentiality regarding pupils, staff, parents, and governors at all times.
- Teaching and Learning
 - Deliver high-quality teaching in accordance with School policies and expectations.
 - Plan, prepare, and review lessons and schemes of work to meet the needs of all pupils.
 - Assess, record, and report on the development, progress, and attainment of pupils as required.
- Pupil Development and Pastoral Care
 - Support the academic, social, and emotional development of pupils.
 - Uphold high standards of pupil behaviour in line with the School's Behaviour Policy.
 - Undertake Form Tutor responsibilities (where applicable) and contribute to the wider pastoral care of pupils.
- Health, Safety and Wellbeing
 - Take reasonable care of your own health and safety and that of others.
 - Follow the School's Health and Safety Policy and report any concerns or incidents promptly.
- Professional Conduct
 - Maintain high standards of personal and professional behaviour, acting as a role model for pupils.
 - Support and uphold the ethos, aims, and values of the School.
 - Build positive and professional relationships with pupils, parents, and colleagues.
- Flexibility and Contribution to School Life
 - Undertake any other duties that may reasonably be required by the Head or Senior Leadership Team.
 - Contribute fully to the wider life of the School, including co-curricular activities, events, and trips.
- Professional Development
 - Participate in the School's appraisal and professional development processes.
 - Take responsibility for keeping knowledge and skills up to date, including compliance training.

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
 - Promote inclusive practices and equality of opportunity across all aspects of School life.
 - Challenge and report inappropriate behaviour or discrimination in line with School policies.
- Team Contribution
 - Work collaboratively with colleagues to support pupil learning and wellbeing.
 - Share good practice, resources, and ideas to contribute to the effectiveness of the academic team.

It should be noted that a job description is not an exhaustive list of activities, and employees may be asked to carry out other duties commensurate with the grade of the post. The job description may also be amended to take account of changed circumstances, and employees will be consulted if this is necessary.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Qualifications & Knowledge	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Suitable qualifications, including a bachelor's degree and QTS status	X	
Understanding of Safeguarding and Child Protection Protocols	X	
Teach History effectively throughout the ability range (Key Stages 3, 4 & 5)	X	
Teach Politics effectively at Key Stage 5		X
Skills & Abilities	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Ability to generate enthusiasm for the subject to motivate pupils	X	
Good interpersonal and communication skills with pupils and colleagues, including listening and respect	X	
Demonstrate excellent in-depth knowledge of the subject curriculum and application	X	
Can demonstrate high standards of classroom management	X	
Manage assessment, recording and reporting pupils' progress	X	
Leadership experience		X
Ability to teach a second subject effectively throughout the age and ability range		X
Commitment to personal and professional development		X
Willing to be involved in the wider activities of the School		X
Confidence to contribute their own ideas and initiatives to the philosophy of the School		X
Practical understanding of administrative demands		X

The post holder's responsibility is to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young persons for whom they are responsible, or with whom they come into contact, and to adhere to and ensure compliance with the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Statement at all times. If, in the course of carrying out the duties of the post, the post holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of pupils in the School, they must report any concerns to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead.



John Lyon School

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John Lyon School

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