



John Mason School

Abingdon Learning Trust

Teacher of Psychology at KS4 & 5
(maternity cover)
RECRUITMENT PACK
July 2026



John Mason School
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION

About

ABINGDON LEARNING TRUST

At Abingdon Learning Trust, our vision is to nurture curiosity, ambition, resilience, and courage. We support a deep-rooted compassion for others and our world, enabling choices and opportunities for a happy and successful life. This vision encompasses every child, pupil, student and member of staff.

Why Work for Us? At Abingdon Learning Trust, we believe that our people are our greatest asset. We are dedicated to creating an environment where every member of staff feels valued, supported, and inspired to achieve their best.

A People-Centric Culture. We are passionate about making a positive difference in the lives of children and young people. Our inclusive culture embraces equality and diversity, ensuring that everyone is treated with fairness, dignity and respect. You will be part of a community that values your unique contributions and supports your professional growth.

Empowered Local Leadership. We trust our local school governors and leaders to make the best decisions for their schools. This means you will have the autonomy to innovate and tailor your approach to meet the needs of your students and community. Each school within our Trust has its own unique ethos, yet we all share the same core values.

A Long-Term Vision. We are focused on preparing the next generation for the future. Our long-term view goes beyond immediate test and exam results, emphasising the development of skills and capabilities that will benefit our pupils throughout their lives. Join us in our mission to create a sustainable future with our net zero ambitions for 2035.

Investment in the Future. At Abingdon Learning Trust, we are committed to investing in our staff and our schools. You will be part of a forward-thinking organisation that values innovation and continuous improvement. Together, we can make a lasting impact on education and the wider community.

OUR VALUES

QUALITY to create an outstanding learning community, including strong leadership and governance

OPPORTUNITY to provide the best opportunities for all children to reach their full potential

COLLABORATION to support a shared commitment and dedication to learning

AMBITION for continual improvement and to strive for excellence in all we do

COMMUNITY to be an active participant in our community, leading and supporting initiatives for the benefit of all members of society

Further detail can be found on the *Abingdon Learning Trust website*.



JOB DETAILS

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| POST OF: | Teacher of Psychology KS4 & 5 (maternity cover) |
| AT: | John Mason School |
| COMMENCEMENT: | November 2026 (with possible earlier start upon request) |
| CONTRACT TYPE: | Full time or Part time (0.8FTE) fixed term contract for one year |
| SALARY: | Main Scale or Upper Pay Scale (if post threshold). TLR may be available for the right candidate |

Letter from the CHAIR OF LOCAL GOVERNORS

On behalf of the Local Academy Committee, I would like to thank you for your interest in working at John Mason School.

If you join the school, you will become part of a school community focused on continuing an improvement journey with the ambitious goal of improving the life chances of all the learners we serve and on living our values of opportunity, respect and determination.

As governors drawn from the local community, we are committed to challenging the school to be the best it can be and united in our support of the school's staff as they take improvement plans forward and help students achieve success.

We are proud of our school and its goals; encouraged by professional development programmes that support staff and governors; and excited by the possibilities that come from a strong partnership between students, parents, staff and colleagues across Abingdon Learning Trust. I hope that you too will be inspired by the opportunities that John Mason provides.

We look forward to receiving your application

Lynn Fathers
Chair of Local Academy Committee



Introduction to JOHN MASON SCHOOL

John Mason School is an oversubscribed 11-18 comprehensive school in the riverside town of Abingdon. John Mason has a long history of opportunity-driven learning – at The Welsh Farm, on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, on the sports field, or in the creative and performing arts. We know that our pupils learn more about themselves and each other when interacting in this way, growing resilience and confidence to take into the classroom.

The school is one of three comprehensives in the town and we work together, as part of the OX14 Partnership, and within our Trust family of schools. This gives us a local network of support in all that we do. We have a joint sixth form (JMF6) with Fitzharrys School, which is half a mile away, allowing us a broad and ambitious post-16 curriculum as well as opportunities for collaboration of teachers.

Across all year groups we offer a broad and balanced curriculum, which reflects our commitment to a well-rounded education that ensures visible success for all learners. We are committed to high quality teaching and learning which is supported by our developmental lesson observations, learning groups which are dedicated to persistent classroom problems and subject specific professional development. In addition to this, we offer a wide range of career pathways and welcome our staff to request external training.

We are committed to the well-being of our community, both staff and students. Our well-being team support a range of activities throughout the year including active challenges, free flu-jabs and the occasional bake off. We also have our very own well-being manager to support colleagues when needed. However, we know well-being is not just about cake, which is why we foster a supportive environment where professional development and collaborative working is key to success.

We believe that high standards of academic achievement and consistently high expectations of behaviour provide children with the stable and calm environment in which to learn effectively. We expect the best of our teachers; they must be passionate about their subjects and committed to continuing to learn themselves. This is at the heart of our community.



Job

DESCRIPTION

Key Purpose of Role

To carry out the professional duties of a teacher as circumstances may require and in accordance with the school's policies under the direction of the Head of School.

To be a consistently "good" and often "outstanding" teacher who meets the relevant set of personal professional standards for the specific pay phase.

To be an effective professional who demonstrates thorough curriculum knowledge, teaches and assesses effectively and takes responsibility for professional development.

To be able to stretch and challenge the highest prior attaining students.

To meet the Teachers' Standards (see appendix).

Areas of Responsibility and Key Tasks

- A. To plan and deliver engaging lessons that are challenging, inclusive and well resourced:
 - A1. ensure curriculum coverage, continuity and progression in the subject for all students, including those of high prior attainment and those with special educational or linguistic needs;
 - A2. ensure effective development of students' individual and collaborative study skills necessary for them to become increasingly independent in their work and to complete tasks independently when out of school;
 - A3. ensure effective development of students' literacy, numeracy and information technology skills through the subject.
- B. To share planning and good practice within the faculty.
- C. To assess students' work regularly, in accordance with school and faculty policy.
- D. To contribute to the development of schemes of work, as required by the Director of Faculty:
 - D1. develop schemes of work and activities designed to ensure positive and engaging experiences in and outside of the classroom;
 - D2. maintain existing resources and explore opportunities to develop or incorporate new resources from a wide range of sources inside and outside the school.
- E. To contribute as appropriate to department extra-curricular activities, by agreement with the Director of Faculty.



- F. To use class data effectively to ensure students make progress:
 - F1. use data effectively to identify students who are underachieving in the subject and, where necessary, create and implement effective plans of action to support those students;
 - F2. analyse and interpret relevant national, local and school data, plus research and inspection evidence, to inform policies, practices, expectations, targets and teaching methods;
 - F3. ensure that information about students' achievements in previous classes and schools is used effectively to secure good progress in the subject.
- G. To ensure that students' behaviour allows learning to take place by implementing the school's behaviour policy:
 - G1. implement the school's behaviour management policy;
 - G2. contribute to whole-school aims, policies and practices, including those in relation to rewards, bullying and racial or sexual harassment.
- H. To report to parents on the quality of students' work, their progress and their attainment, in accordance with school and department policy.
- I. To attend parents' evenings to give an account of students' progress, attainment and approach to learning, as required by the schedule.
- J. To carry out other responsibilities that may reasonably be required by the Head of School.

Safeguarding

Abingdon Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All staff must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.



Person

SPECIFICATION

| | Essential | Desirable |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Education and training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First or second degree • PGCE or equivalent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of further personal and professional development |
| Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECT or above • A record of successful teaching (as a trainee or experienced teacher) and the potential to be an outstanding practitioner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience teaching both KS4 and KS5 psychology |
| Knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong subject knowledge and understanding necessary to undertake the teaching of A level and GCSE Psychology | |
| Skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to plan and deliver stimulating/first class learning experiences which draw on a wide range of teaching and learning styles • The ability to enthuse students of all ages and abilities • The ability to use ICT as a tool for teaching and learning • Effective communicator • Ability to establish good relationships with students and colleagues • Skills to be an effective tutor | |
| Personal qualities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent team member • Energy, positivity, enthusiasm • Prepared to go the extra mile to enable students to do as well as possible • Committed to school improvement • High expectations of self and others • Commitment to working for equality of opportunity • Excellent organisational and interpersonal skills • A willingness to learn and ask for support • A willingness to be involved in the school's wider enrichment programme | |





QUALITY
OPPORTUNITY
COLLABORATION
AMBITION
COMMUNITY



Terms of APPOINTMENT

The appointment will be made based on the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD).

The appointment is for November 2026 (with possible earlier start upon request). Full-time or Part-time (0.8FTE) fixed term for one year maternity cover.

John Mason School and Abingdon Learning Trust are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.

A copy of the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is here: <https://www.johnmason.oxon.sch.uk/our-school/policies/>

Applicants must be willing to undergo all the relevant pre-employment checks as laid out in Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Person SPECIFICATION

Closing date for completed applications is **9.00 a.m. on Monday 13 July 2026.**

Applications should be completed online through our recruitment portal [My New Term](#)

Shortlisted applicants will be notified following assessment of applications against the person specification and job role requirements.

Interviews will be held on Thursday 16 July 2026.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Polite notice to Recruitment Agencies:

Please be aware that we do not accept unsolicited applications or CVs from recruitment agencies. Any unsolicited information sent to us will not be considered, and we will not be liable for any fees related to such submissions.

