



HARROW  
SCHOOL

# Appointment of **FULL-TIME TEACHER OF ENGLISH**

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September 2026



# APPOINTMENT OF TEACHER OF ENGLISH

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The School seeks to appoint a full-time teacher of English from September 2026. This post comes with a generous package including the below:

- Rent-free accommodation provided on the Hill;
- Access to a generous education fund for any children you may have;
- Health cover provided free of charge for you and at a reduced rate for any members of your immediate family that you may wish to add.

## BACKGROUND

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Harrow School is one of the world's most famous schools. Founded in 1572 by a local yeoman farmer, John Lyon, under a Royal Charter granted by Queen Elizabeth I, it is located on a 324-acre estate encompassing much of Harrow on the Hill in north-west London. Around 830 boys aged 13 to 18, from all over Britain and across the world, live in the School's 12 boarding houses. There are about 120 academic staff and over 500 support staff.



The academic curriculum for the first year (Year 9), which we call the Shell, is a foundation course in which boys study a range of subjects, including a choice of two languages. In the second and third years, Remove (Year 10) and Fifth Form (Year 11), boys study ten subjects to (I)GCSE. All boys are

expected to take at least four subjects in the Lower Sixth, plus an Elective in the Autumn and Spring terms. In the Upper Sixth, they carry on with three or four subjects to A level. Lessons are taught in the mornings Monday to Saturday, and in the afternoons of Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Our Super-Curriculum encapsulates all those activities that foster academic endeavour beyond the measurable outcomes of examination results. It includes (but is not limited to) wide and habitual reading, extended project work, debate, public speaking, research, competitions, lectures, study trips and our Electives programme – off-piste courses that capitalise on our teachers' academic passions and are taught at Sixth Form through university-style seminars. Each boy at Harrow finishes his school career by completing a Harrow Diploma to recognise his commitment to the Super-Curriculum.

We have 12 boarding houses, each of which has a unique character and its own gardens and facilities. Each house accommodates on average 67 boys. Pastoral care is delivered by the House Master, Assistant House Master and Matron (all resident), as well as the year-group tutors and a full PSHEE programme. Our Chaplaincy, full-time Psychologist and Pastoral Support Committee provide further layers of support.

Boys and teaching staff gather in Speech Room once a week. This is an important time for reflection, keeping abreast of news and events, and celebrating achievements. Harrow has a Christian foundation and ethos, meaning that Chapel also plays a significant part in our daily life. We have three Christian Chaplains (two Anglican and one Roman Catholic), as well as a Muslim and Jewish Chaplain, and most boys attend services twice each week. Boys of all faiths are welcome at services, where together we worship and contemplate important issues.

Harrow has a breadth of sporting opportunities to suit each boy's interests and ability. An extensive games programme includes approximately 28 sports. We hold afternoon games four times a week, as well as sporting fixtures against other schools and regular inter-house competitions. Our elite sportsmen have an impressive record and some go on to enjoy professional sporting careers. Our provision for the lower teams includes expert coaching.





A number of parents send their sons to Harrow because of our strong Music department. We aim to raise the best musicians to a very high level of skill, while involving every boy in enjoyable musical activity. Over half of our pupils learn an instrument and most of these are involved in ensemble work too, putting on more than 80 performances each year.

Harrow has a national reputation for drama. As well as teaching boys at every level in the School, the Drama and Theatre department stages a diverse season of School, house and boy-led productions each year in the state-of-the-art Ryan Theatre.

The Art Schools and Churchill Schools provide a rich education in Art and in Design Technology & Engineering. We offer specific tuition in painting, sculpture, photography and art history.

All boys are encouraged to join our many clubs and societies. Some are organised by academic departments or are related to games and sports; others are less easy to classify, such as the Debating Society, the Law Society and the Conservation group. Our close proximity to London means that we regularly attract excellent speakers. *The Harrovian* is the School magazine; edited by boys, it began life well over a century ago and appears every week during term time. Boys also help to run the School Farm. The Harrow Rifle Corps is one of the largest combined cadet forces in a School in the country and it has a proud record of preparing boys for scholarships in the armed services. We offer The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme at all levels, with around 170 boys taking part annually.

Shaftesbury Enterprise encompasses all Harrow's philanthropic, charitable, outreach and partnership work, with the service work of the boys making up an important part. Through this initiative, all boys engage purposefully and genuinely with the local community. Harrovians give a great deal through Shaftesbury Enterprise, but they also receive plenty in return. It is not uncommon for boys to feel that their commitment to Shaftesbury Enterprise is one of the most valuable that they make at School.

Culturally, Harrow's way of life is steeped in tradition. From playing Harrow Football and carving new boys' names on boards in the boarding houses, to singing Harrow Songs, wearing the straw hat and using our distinctive terminology, these customs have developed over centuries. They continue to pervade our community on the Hill and to bind us together in support and fellowship.

Harrow School is part of a much larger family, which is made up of John Lyon's Foundation, the Harrow International Schools, and the Harrow Club (a centre for sport and education for young people in Notting Dale that the Foundation helped to establish). John Lyon's Foundation is made up of a Charter Corporation comprising Harrow School, John Lyon School (a nearby co-educational day school) and John Lyon's Charity (a grant-giving charity that gives over £10 million a year to schools and other organisations in the boroughs of north-west London).

# SCHOOL VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS

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All staff are expected to conduct themselves in line with the School's values which are: **Courage**, **Honour**, **Humility** and **Fellowship**. While the School's values set out what matters most to us, the behaviours below are intended as a shared set of expectations to refer to, and standards to aspire to, in our dealings with others. They are the practical application of our values.

## COURAGE

- We remain optimistic and purposeful in a disrupted world.
- We take responsibility for our decisions, even the hard ones.
- We always challenge poor behaviour in ourselves and others.
- We are open to new ideas, and seek fresh challenges.

## HONOUR

- We keep our promises.
- We act with integrity – doing the right thing, even when it is difficult or when no one is watching.
- We respect and value our traditions whilst setting them in the context of today.

## HUMILITY

- We work hard to serve others within the School and across our wider communities where possible putting their interests before our own.
- We give and seek honest and appropriate feedback, reflect on our failures and learn from them.
- We support each other through challenges and whatever the outcome, we celebrate those that took part.

## FELLOWSHIP

- We respect each other and value our differences, knowing that we are more effective and more resilient working together.
- We are kind and inclusive; we value the contribution that each of us makes.
- We role model the behaviours that we would like to see in others; we ask only of others what we would be prepared to do ourselves.



## THE TEACHING STAFF

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We have a very friendly and increasingly diverse teaching staff, and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds. Some joined Harrow straight from university, others after taking a PGCE. Some have taught in an independent school before, others have not. What all of our teachers have in common is an enthusiasm for their subject and a willingness to be involved in the life of a boys' full-boarding school.

As the School has a duty to supervise pupils around the clock during term time, our teachers' responsibilities include caring for the boys at irregular times outside normal teaching hours. To facilitate this, and so that they can better perform their duties, teachers at Harrow are required to live in a house or flat allocated by the School. We maintain these properties free of rent and charges for teachers, and also pay for their water and council tax.

Harrow on the Hill is only 30 minutes from central London on the London Underground Metropolitan line but it has a rural feel; the streets resemble a village, and it is surrounded by woods and playing fields. It is a good place to bring up a young family - there are many children on the Hill and some excellent local schools.

The School has its own salary scale, with generous additional benefits including private medical insurance. Teachers are eligible for an allowance towards the cost of educating their children and can educate their sons at Harrow at a reduced rate. Bursaries are also available at John Lyon.





## THE DEPARTMENT

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Harrow's English department has a strong tradition of combining creative teaching with extremely strong examination performance; it is a large and busy department that achieves excellent results at all levels and continues to attract healthy numbers at A level. It consists of seven full-time teachers, some of whom teach Drama as well as English. Most of the department is housed in one building, and teachers have well-equipped class rooms, including a Surface Book computer and a projector to enable the effective use of IT. Teachers are given a considerable level of freedom in the choice of texts where possible, and boys are encouraged to read widely and ambitiously.

The department currently prepares boys for CAIE IGCSE in both English and English Literature; in the most recent public exams, 85% of English and English Literature grades were 9-7. At A level, boys follow the OCR specification and results have been consistently impressive: in 2025, 38% of boys received A\* grades and 84% achieved A\*-A grades.

There are numerous English competitions that run throughout the academic year, from poetry recitation to short-story writing, and boys from all year groups take part in these. There are two main English societies, both named after prominent Old Harrovian writers. The Sheridan Society is the main literary society and is focused on organising talks, lectures and theatre trips. The L P Hartley Society is for boys with an interest in creative writing and is primarily a forum for sharing and developing boys' own work. The department's creative writing magazine, in collaboration with Harrow International schools, showcases the best work produced by boys from all year groups.

# THE ROLE

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The successful applicant will:

- teach English at all levels of the School;
- make an enthusiastic contribution to the work of the department, in the broadest sense;
- further the high profile of the department among Harrovians;
- contribute to the Super-Curriculum, which includes Electives, lectures and other academic extension;
- attend Chapel regularly and Speech Room (assembly) once a week;
- be a tutor in a House, supporting the House Master in the pastoral care of a group of boys;
- teach PSHEE to a tutor group; and
- contribute to extra-curricular activities, which are an important part of boarding-school life.

Support and training to achieve Qualified Teacher Status can be offered if required. We occasionally appoint Masters with outstanding qualities and a good degree who do not have a formal teaching qualification. In such instances, teachers will be able to access our internal training sessions on topics such as:

- lesson planning and preparation;
- reporting and communication with parents;
- behaviour management and discipline;
- marking, assessment and feedback;
- special educational needs and disabilities;
- the use of technology in teaching and learning.



# THE PERSON SPECIFICATION

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All members of staff are expected to conduct themselves in line with the School's values: **Courage**, **Honour**, **Humility** and **Fellowship**.

The successful candidate will have:

- strong practical and contextual subject knowledge;
- enthusiasm for the subject(s);
- high expectations of pupils;
- strong inter-personal and communication skills;
- a creative mind;
- impressive academic qualifications, including a good degree;
- resonance with Harrow School's ethos;
- an understanding of the full-boarding environment;
- stamina and resilience;
- tact and discretion; and
- integrity.





## HOW TO APPLY

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Please visit the School's website at [www.harrowschool.org.uk/contact/work-at-harrow](http://www.harrowschool.org.uk/contact/work-at-harrow) or click on the 'Apply to School website' button for more detailed information about the role and to complete our online form, which should be submitted by 8am, Wednesday 28 January 2026. Informal enquiries about the role would be welcome: please contact the Head of English, Mrs Alison O'Neill ([ACO@harrowschool.org.uk](mailto:ACO@harrowschool.org.uk)). Only those applicants best fulfilling the job and person specification will be shortlisted.

### INTERVIEW PROCEDURE

In addition to teaching a lesson, you will be interviewed by the Head Master, the Deputy Head Master and the Director of Studies. You will also meet more informally with the Head of Geography and with other members of the department and the Senior Management Team. The selection process and interview questions will relate to the details given in this job description, in particular 'The School', 'The Department', 'The Job' and 'The Person Specification'. You will be asked to explain any discrepancies or anomalies in the information you have provided either on the application form or in your covering letter, as well as any issues arising from references, which we will take up in advance of your interview.

### SAMPLE LESSON

When we observe your teaching, we will be looking, in particular, for the first five attributes outlined in 'The Person Specification'. Do not try to cover too much in a sample lesson, and do not lecture excessively. Ask the pupils to do something other than just listen, for example to make notes or to do an exercise or activity.

# SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

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Harrow School is committed to safeguarding, protecting and promoting the welfare of children and you must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). At interview, we will ask questions about child protection procedures and your suitability to work with children. All teachers at Harrow must comply with our *Safeguarding Policy*, which can be found on our website [www.harrowschool.org.uk](http://www.harrowschool.org.uk).

The position is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

In addition, the position will be offered subject to the receipt of satisfactory references, proof of qualifications and proof of right to work in the UK.

Copies of the School's *Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy*, and *Privacy Notice for Job Applicants* are available on the School's website, alongside the candidate pack.

Equality, diversity and inclusion are values that are important to us at Harrow. We believe in diversity of thought and actively welcome anyone regardless of their background to bring their valuable and relevant skills to our community.

