



PALMERS GREEN
HIGH SCHOOL

SCIENCE (CHEMISTRY) TEACHER CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

INTRODUCTION

Palmers Green High School (PGHS) seeks to appoint a well-qualified, enthusiastic and inspirational teacher to join our strong and successful Science Department.

This is an exciting opportunity for a talented and committed teacher to join a school that works collaboratively to get the very best from all pupils. The successful candidate is likely to be a Chemistry specialist but will be able to teach all three sciences at least to KS3 (ideally KS4).

In addition to curriculum teaching, the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the school's extensive range of extracurricular activities before school, at lunchtimes and after school.

The post is currently available as a 0.6 timetable (3 days) commitment. A 0.8 or full-time role may be considered for a candidate able to offer an additional subject such as Mathematics or Computer Science. The salary is in accordance with the PGHS Scale.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 23 April at 9am. Interviews will take place during the week beginning 28 April. The school reserves the right to interview suitable candidates before the closing date so early applications are encouraged.

THE SCHOOL

Founded in 1905 by Miss Alice Hum, a Quaker, Palmers Green High School is unique in the North London area because it is a small selective school providing challenging and stimulating educational opportunities for approximately 250 girls aged 4-16 from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds.

The school's motto "By Love Serve One Another" was set by its founder and, whilst Miss Hum was a Quaker, the school has no official religious affiliation, although it celebrates Founder's Day and Christmas with services held at the church of St John The Evangelist on Bourne Hill, where some PGHS lessons were taught during World War II when Keble Preparatory School for Boys had to share the main PGHS site in Hoppers Road.

Girls from Reception to Year 11 are taught on the main school site, situated in a residential road in Winchmore Hill.



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ACADEMIC INFORMATION

You will be teaching bright, interested and hard-working senior pupils in small classes in an academically selective girls' independent school.

In January 2022, ISI carried out a Focused Compliance and Educational Quality inspection and reported that PGHS was fully compliant and graded the Educational Quality of the school as excellent. The school has an outstanding record of academic success in public examinations. In 2024, the school's overall percentage of GCSEs 9/8 grades was a magnificent 44% and 9-7 a fantastic 72%, placing our pupils amongst the top performers in the country.

WORKING AT PGHS

At PGHS, we are committed to the on-going professional development of all our teaching and support staff as well as the full induction and training of all new staff.

SCIENCE AT PGHS

The post of Teacher of Science offers an exciting opportunity for the successful candidate to build upon the current popularity of the subject across the school. Current facilities include two well-equipped science laboratories with integrated interactive digital equipment. The Science Department currently has three members of teaching staff (Head of Science, a full-time teacher and a part-time teacher) and a dedicated Science Technician. Opportunities to liaise with the Science Co-ordinator in the Primary Division add another dimension to this post.

The majority of pupils are entered for the Edexcel GCSE 9-1 Separate Science examinations in Biology, Chemistry and Physics with others opting for the Combined Science pathway. There are two teaching groups per year set by ability from Year 10, with both groups following a similar scheme of work, adapted to the needs of the pupils. Class sizes are small with an average of fourteen pupils per teaching group.

The Science Department runs regular lunchtime support and challenge groups, which are very well attended. The department runs a STEM club on a weekly basis and an extensive programme of enrichment activities annually for British Science Week. There are opportunities to organise curricular trips; in October 2024 pupils visited CERN in Geneva.

At PGHS all staff members are expected to give freely of their time to provide individual guidance for pupils – especially those who are pursuing GCSE courses. This may include before, during and after school study sessions and occasional weekend workshops when required.

Science is a very popular core subject at PGHS and pupils' achievement at GCSE is excellent with many pupils going on to study science subjects at A Level and to read science-related disciplines at university.



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THE POST

The successful candidate will be capable of delivering the science curriculum across the age range and ability spectrum with enthusiasm and expertise.

They will be able to establish strong rapport with the pupils in order to harness their interest and encourage positive, active engagement. A high level of personal organisation and inter-personal skill is essential in order to liaise with colleagues, pupils, parents and the SMT/SLT.

The successful candidate will be an ambassador for the School and the department both within the School and in the wider community. They will benefit from opportunities offered through access to internal and external training and development. The successful candidate will be expected to take a share in pastoral care acting as a tutor to a small group of pupils. They will also be expected to contribute to the extra-curricular programme.

PGHS welcomes applications from those currently teaching in either the maintained or independent sector. This role may be suitable for an ECT. The salary is in accordance with the PGHS Scale. The post is currently available as a 0.6 timetable (3 days) commitment. A 0.8 or full-time role may be considered for a candidate able to offer a second subject such as Mathematics or Computer Science. The salary is in accordance with the PGHS Scale.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate the following:

- A strong academic background, with at least a good honours degree and PGCE or equivalent;
- Awareness, understanding and, ideally, experience of issues relating to safeguarding the health, welfare and safety of children;
- High personal and professional standards;
- Positive working relationships with colleagues and the ability to work as a member of a team;
- Excellent time management and organisational skills;
- Ability to take responsibility and to show initiative;
- Ability to contribute to developing new teaching and learning strategies and willingness to contribute to the extra-curricular programme;
- Thorough knowledge of the subject and an interest in current developments;
- Ability to use a variety of teaching and learning styles;
- Ability to convey infectious enthusiasm for the subject;
- Experience in the use of ICT to support the teaching of science;
- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people;
- Motivation to work with children and young people;
- Positive attitude to managing behaviour in the classroom.





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THE PROCESS

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 23 April at 9am. Interviews will take place during the week beginning 28 April. The school reserves the right to interview suitable candidates before the closing date so early applications are encouraged.

Palmer's Green High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All successful candidates will be required to undertake a criminal record check via the DBS. The school will also undertake checks with past employers. It is an offence for a person barred from working with children to apply for this post.

Palmer's Green High School is committed to Equal Opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. Studies have shown that women and people from under-represented ethnicities are less likely to apply for jobs unless they meet every single aspect of a job description and person specification. At PGHS we are committed to building a diverse and inclusive workplace, so we encourage you to apply even if your past experience does not align perfectly with every qualification or experience in the information provided.



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