

# Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall



Teacher of Geography Post – From September 2017  
MPS



## The School

Queen Mary's Grammar School is an invigorating and rewarding place to work: the pupils are intelligent and committed to study; the staff are friendly and forward looking. It is far more than just a place of work – it is a thriving community, proud of its past and confident of its future. In November 2008, it was recognised as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, our most recent inspection.

There are currently 938 pupils on roll, including 342 in the Sixth Form. The School has an outstanding academic record and regularly features in the upper reaches of the national league tables. In 2016, 79% of GCSE grades were A\*/A and 76% of A-level grades were A\*, A or B. Our value added scores are particularly impressive (with GCSE being in the 5<sup>th</sup> percentile nationally in 2015); we do not rest on our laurels, but encourage all our pupils to take up the challenge of realising their full potential.

In June 2011, the School converted to Academy status and we have undertaken a series of exciting building projects over the past 6 years, including a new Sixth Form Centre, Science labs and a Humanities wing, as well as a new dining room and reception. We partnered a local charity in the founding of Walsall Studio School in 2012 and are currently in the final stages of setting up the Mercian Multi Academy Trust (along with four other schools). Further information regarding the Mercian MAT is included at the end of this document.

The School encourages an enterprising and international outlook: we have enjoyed exchanges with a partner school in Shaoxing, and schools in Albi (France), Biedenkopf (Germany) and Vigo (Spain).

We want our own pupils to lead happy and fulfilled lives. Learning here is not just about passing exams, but about enjoying the life of the mind. We also encourage all our pupils to take part in a wide range of enrichment activities in sport, drama and music, in the Combined Cadet Force and at Farchynys, the school's Welsh centre, on the Afon Mawddach in Southern Snowdonia.

You will notice a relaxed working atmosphere as you walk round the school. Our pupils come from diverse backgrounds, but they all thrive on the sense of support, encouragement and care that characterises Queen Mary's. Increasingly our pupils play a leading role in the school's development; *participation* is the key idea behind our motto - it's what you are prepared to put in that will prove to be a source of riches for the rest of your life or, more succinctly in Latin: *Quas dederis solas semper habebis opes*.



## The Department

The Geography Department at Queen Mary's is a happy and rewarding place to work. The subject is very popular within the school community and numbers in the subject are high at both GCSE and A-level and the results are impressive by national standards. In 2016, 79% students achieved an A or A\* at GCSE with 35 A\* grades. At A-level, 83% received an A\*, A or B grade.

Led by Chris Larvin, the Geography Department is staffed by highly qualified and enthusiastic teachers and there is a real sense of teamwork and collaboration in everything that they do. The two other full-time teachers are Robert Matley (Head of Sixth Form) and Graham Collins (who is Head of KS4). All members of the department are heavily involved in extra-curricular activities, including sports coaching and the CCF. The department is certainly involved in the life of the school. The vacancy has arisen due to Alex Jones, our Geography and P.E. teacher, deciding to change career. Therefore we would welcome an NQT or more experienced teacher to join the Geography Department as a subject specialist with the ability to teach a second subject, such as P.E., History or English, being highly desirable.

The Department believes in developing a sense of curiosity and wonder of the wider world through the study of geography. As such, we offer a wide range of opportunities to the students outside of their main studies. All A-level students will spend time at the School's Farchynys Field Centre in North Wales as part of their A-level Independent Study and to support their studies of physical and human topics. Last year, the department has supported KS3 to A-level curriculum with fieldtrips to Walsall, Birmingham and the Olympic site in London. Students across the year groups have been involved international fieldtrips to Sicily, Iceland and Morocco, with a trip to S.W. USA planned for April 2018. The department has also developed a range of partnership with external agencies, including universities, non-governmental organisations and the Geographical Association.

Geography is currently housed in three specialist classrooms, equipped with interactive whiteboards and ceiling-mounted projectors. The department is forward-thinking in the use of technology from incorporating the use of the department's bank of laptops and tablets, inviting students to research within lessons through the School's BYOD initiative, to developing electronic assessments and training students to use GIS software such as ArcGIS. For a look at life in the Geography Department, check out [@OMGSGeoging](https://twitter.com/OMGSGeoging) on Twitter.



## **The position**

### **Job Description:**

The successful candidate will:

- teach Geography to all year groups from Year 7 to A-level
- teach one other subject to all year groups
- plan and teach challenging and differentiated lessons which enable high levels of progress
- deploy a range of teaching strategies to engage pupils
- maintain discipline in lessons to ensure that learning can take place
- mark pupils' work, giving constructive feedback to aid improved performance, and monitor their progress
- communicate regularly with the Head of Department about pupil performance and achievement
- use relevant pupil data to help pupils to achieve their full potential
- make an active contribution to the extra-curricular life of the school.

### **Person Specification:**

- You will be a well-qualified graduate in the appropriate subject discipline
- You will possess, or be working towards, a Postgraduate Certificate of Education or equivalent teaching qualification in secondary education
- You will be an innovative teacher, keen to develop Geography teaching in the school
- You will have a commitment to the ethos of the school and a willingness to contribute to enrichment activities
- You will be positive and enthusiastic in approach
- You will have good oral and written communication skills
- You will have well-developed ICT skills
- You will have the ability to work as part of a team and to develop and maintain positive relationships with teaching and associate staff
- You will be willing to be involved in the pastoral life of the school and act in the role of form tutor
- You will be suitable to work with children. This job is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure.

**Open Morning for potential applicants:** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March between 9.00 - 10.00 am

**Closing date:** Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

**Interviews:** TBC

# Introducing a new Multi Academy Trust

Dear Potential Applicant,

The Mercian Trust offers an exciting opportunity for Queen Mary's Grammar School, along with four other partner schools, to be involved in shaping a new educational landscape across the Borough of Walsall.

The Mercian Trust brings together five schools, all rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, to work for the benefit of all our pupils. The Schools are: Aldridge School, Queen Mary's Grammar School, Queen Mary's High School, Shire Oak Academy and Walsall Studio School.

The Multi Academy Trust or MAT will, we hope, come into existence as a legal entity in April 2017, but The Mercian Trust has already begun to function, establishing good working relationships between the different institutions and the people in them. The Trust respects the autonomy of its founding schools: they will be custodians of their heritage, distinct identity and successful operation. However, as we focus on meeting the needs of pupils across the educational piece, The Mercian will foster and develop strengths that will be greater than the sum of its parts. Diversity is what underpins this Trust; what makes it work is seamless collaboration.

Our MAT will prepare pupils to enjoy life to the full by inspiring them to:

- Realise their full potential as learners
- Thrive in the world of work
- Make a positive contribution to the local, national and international community

Thank you for your interest in joining Queen Mary's Grammar School. It is an exciting prospect in a great school. We hope that the MAT might be able to offer you extra possibilities in terms of development and experience. The DfE described the MAT's plans as a "compelling vision for Walsall." Perhaps you might be involved in turning that vision into reality. If that interests you, it might be something you would like to discuss at interview.

Queen Mary's Grammar School looks forward to receiving your application.

Yours faithfully,



Timothy Swain, CEO Designate,

The Mercian Trust

