

# *Creating the Future*



THORPE HOUSE SCHOOL

AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR BOYS

# WELCOME



Thorpe House School is a thriving boys' independent day school in Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire. The School provides its 300 pupils with an education tailored to the way boys learn best. It is a truly unique school in the local area, offering boys a bespoke learning journey.

Thorpe House School is forward-looking, thriving and inclusive.

A Christian-based ethos underpins the School's nurturing environment. Kindness, compassion, respect, politeness, and resilience are traditional Thorpe House values. The School invests a high level of care and attention in every pupil and instils the boys with a love of learning. It has a caring family atmosphere, with a welcoming staff who work closely in partnership with parents to ensure that the boys achieve their best. Excellent teaching, small class sizes and a learning environment where boys are known by their teachers, guarantees the best opportunity for each pupil to fulfil his potential.

The boys generally achieve GCSE grades above those predicted, many of them excellent, and by the time they leave, are well prepared to cope with the many and varied challenges of modern life. Thorpe House School's educational approach encourages the boys to become responsible members of their local and global community. The staff are committed to providing the boys with the guidance and support they need to succeed.

# Creating the Future

## *Our* HISTORY



Steeped in history, the School was founded in 1923 by Cyril Averill. Originally sited in Queensway, the School moved to its present site in 1925. The former Poet Laureate, Sir John Betjeman, was for a time the School's Master in Charge of Cricket. The Pre-Prep was established in 1964 and in 1985 the School became a Charitable Educational Trust. In 2006, with great success, the School extended its age range to 16.

In 2023/24 the School will mark its centenary and welcome Year 12 pupils into its new co-educational sixth form which opens in September 2024.

## *Our* LOCATION



Gerrards Cross is a wonderful place to live and work. It has an abundance of green space for cycling and walking, notably the beautiful Gerrards Cross Common. The town has a friendly community feel and it is consistently rated as one of the most sought-after locations close to London. The centre of London is only a 20-minute train journey. The Chiltern Railway also serves Aylesbury, High Wycombe, Bicester, Stratford-upon-Avon and Birmingham.

## Pastoral Care

It is very evident that positive relationships exist between all members of the School community. Every boy is made to feel that he is an important member of the School, allowing his learning to flourish and an independence of thought to grow within him. The staff are committed to doing the very best for the boys in their care; all pupils feel valued. Pastoral care at Thorpe House is excellent and the boys know that their teachers demonstrate concern for them and readily listen to their views.

## Aims

The School aims to educate and develop each pupil to the highest standard. When a boy leaves Thorpe House, the School is determined that he has the attributes to be a curious, independent and creative learner. The School encourages the boys to become risk takers who can reflect upon their ideas and use them to problem solve. Thorpe House School boys have well-developed personalities, are self-confident, and show consideration for others. The School strives for its boys to be culturally aware, spiritually fulfilled, and content with life whilst retaining a high self-esteem and a positive regard for themselves.



## Governance and Leadership

The School is administered by dedicated and hardworking trustees who have a clear understanding of the School; they work hard to ensure that the School stays true to its ethos. They offer a wide range of effective skills to support the Head and the School. As a result, the School benefits from outstanding leadership. A clear and well-communicated vision for the future is supported by the Governing Body and a committed Senior Leadership Team. All those involved at the School aim to create a caring, learning environment for the boys. The Senior Leadership Team currently comprises the Headteacher, Deputy Head, Director of Studies, Head of Lower School and Finance Manager. Mr Simon McCallion formally joined the school as Head of Sixth Form on 1st September 2023.



# *Our* SECTIONS

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Lower School is a vibrant, inclusive and very happy place to learn. Small classes and teachers with experience throughout Early Years and both Key Stage 1 and 2 ensure a high level of care and attention to every boy. Lower School boys are encouraged to embrace the values of kindness, friendship and respect, alongside perseverance and a love of learning.



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In the Middle School, the aim is to create an environment where every pupil's academic needs are met, challenged and stretched on a daily basis. We want all pupils to realise not only their level, but also to appreciate what the next steps are and ensure that they are motivated to take those steps.

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In the Upper School, the aim is to provide excellent teaching in a small school environment, preparing the boys for tomorrow's world and their next step in education. We seek to challenge, inspire and inculcate a lifelong love of learning whilst also developing the key attributes of intellectual curiosity, independent thinking and learning, resilience, respect and leadership.



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The School will be opening a co-educational sixth form in September 2024 and is very excited by the opportunities which this venture will offer for both staff and pupils.

# JOB DESCRIPTION

## Teacher of Geography

Required for April 2024

We are looking for an outstanding and innovative teacher who is passionate about teaching and learning and has a proven record in delivering geography from Year 6 to GCSE level.

Thorpe House prides itself on empowering each pupil to achieve his potential and expects candidates to be able to demonstrate a commitment to high standards and the ability to deliver exciting and engaging lessons.

In return we can offer the opportunity to join a dynamic and successful department with small classes of motivated boys who enjoy geography.

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ROLE

#### Purpose:

- To provide innovative and inspirational teaching of Geography
- To contribute to raising the standards in Geography, ensuring all pupils maximise their learning opportunities.

#### Duties:

- Plan and prepare courses and lessons in accordance with published schemes of work;
- Teach assigned pupils in Years 6 to 11, including setting and marking of work and assessments in line with school policy;
- Assess, record and report on the development, progress and attainment of pupils in line with school policies;
- Promote the welfare and the individual needs of assigned pupils, following the requirements of the school's policies including child protection, health and safety and behaviour management; Under the direction of the Head of Department, make a full contribution to the work of the departmental team, and to the departmental and whole-school initiatives including Open Days;
- Contribute to the maintenance of the fabric of the classroom and any departmental areas through the creation and updating of displays;
- Contribute to the development and maintenance of electronic resources;

# JOB DESCRIPTION

Teacher of Geography

Required for April 2024

- Attend parents' evenings and meetings as appropriate to the year group taught;
- Attend all assemblies, departmental meetings, staff meetings and INSET;
- Undertake a range of general duties to enable the smooth running of the school;
- Contribute to the school's programme of extra-curricular activities, some of which may occur at weekends or during evenings;
- Act as a form tutor if required, being responsible for morning registration, overseeing and reporting on pupils' pastoral and academic progress and being active in helping them to progress.

Teach some aspects of the school's PSHEE programme (applies only to teachers who are form tutors);

- Act as Head of House if required, being responsible for running and promoting one of the school's four Houses.

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

- Be a qualified teacher in the 11 to 18 age range;
- Have a proven record of successful teaching with secondary-aged pupils;
- Have an extensive knowledge of general Geography and an awareness of teaching methodology to motivate pupils to extend their knowledge and understanding of Computing;
- Have energy, enthusiasm, vision and initiative to motivate pupils;
- Have high expectations of pupils' behaviour and achievement;
- Able to work within organisational procedures and meet the required standards and deadlines for the role;
- Good inter-personal skills, able to work collaboratively and supportively with school colleagues;
- Able to relate to pupils and parents;
- Able to communicate clearly and effectively orally and in writing,;
- Able to use ICT effectively in all aspects of teaching and learning and administration;
- Able to plan effectively, setting priorities and targets;
- Able to communicate effectively, both orally and in written form;
- Be committed to continual personal and professional development and be reflective and able to learn from past experience;
- Be committed to the protection and safeguarding of children and young people, and able to form and maintain appropriate relationships;
- Be able to demonstrate an active interest in extra-curricular activities and a willingness to be involved;
- Be able to demonstrate appropriate pastoral skills;
- Support school events and be prepared to accompany school trips;





# TERMS & CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

This is a full time, fixed term position from April 2024 until the end of the school year.

The School offers flexible pension arrangements, and fee remission on completion of probation subject to meeting admission criteria and available places.

Lunches are provided during term time at no cost and, tea, coffee and biscuits are provided at break times.

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# *Our* APPLICATION PROCESS



1

To apply, please return a completed application form and covering letter to Mrs Funmi Obamakin, HR Officer, at [f.obamakin@thorpehouse.co.uk](mailto:f.obamakin@thorpehouse.co.uk). The closing date for receipt of applications is 9am on Tuesday, 2 January. Early applications are encouraged as we reserve the right to appoint at any time during the recruitment process.

A copy of the School's recruitment policy, safeguarding policy and privacy notice are available at [www.thorpehouse.co.uk/career-opportunities](http://www.thorpehouse.co.uk/career-opportunities)



2

Candidates will be expected to teach a lesson as part of the interview process. In the formal interview there will be questions investigating the applicant's attitude to safeguarding issues and pedagogy.



3

References of shortlisted candidates will normally be taken up prior to interview. In the interests of safeguarding and child protection, we reserve the right to telephone referees to clarify any questions which arise from application forms, verify facts and investigate any inconsistencies between a written reference and the application form.

# *Meet* OUR TEAM



Mr Jake Burnett  
Headteacher

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Mr Sean Day  
Deputy Head

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Mrs Sue Jenkin  
Director of Studies

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Mr Simon McCallion  
Head of Sixth Form

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## The Thorpe Way

This core set of values defines who we are as a school; we show these qualities every day in class, out of school, and as members of the Thorpe Community. Being consistent in our approaches and attitudes will help us to be happy, hard-working and successful, so that we can all do our best and take pride in our achievements.

We are:

### ***T: Truthful***

**We always:**

- Show integrity in words and deeds
- Make the correct decisions, with thought and care
- Take ownership of our learning and behaviour with accountability for actions and outcomes
- Demonstrate responsibility for our actions and in what we say
- Show honesty and courage at all times

### ***H: Helpful***

**We always:**

- Assist those in need without being asked
- Hold doors open and step aside as necessary
- Queue up sensibly and respectfully
- Look after our school environment and keep all areas tidy
- Demonstrate we are positive role models within our community

### ***O: Organised***

**We always:**

- Take pride in our appearance
- Manage time, tasks and information effectively and productively, including keeping a record of homework and completing it to the best of our abilities
- Recognise when technology is a distraction and when it is appropriate (or not) to use a device
- Bring the correct equipment to class
- Plan, prioritise and take action to achieve personal goals

### ***R: Resilient***

**We always:**

- Demonstrate preparedness to learn and contribute to a positive environment
- Learn from our mistakes as well as taking risks
- Concentrate and remain focused in class
- Show we are ready to ask and answer questions
- Show respectful confidence and no fear of making mistakes

### ***P: Polite***

**We always:**

- Use language that is appropriate and respectful, remembering to use 'please' and 'thank you'
- Make eye contact and respond positively to others
- Speak clearly and appropriately, knowing that slang and profanity are never tolerated
- Show respect to classmates, students, staff and visitors both at school and offsite
- Move calmly and in an orderly way around the school

### ***E: Empathic***

**We always:**

- Treat others the way we wish to be treated
- Regulate emotions appropriately and carefully
- Take pride in the successes and achievements of others
- Show kindness and care for everyone in the school community
- Respect the beliefs, feelings, views and cultures of others



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*let's get in touch*

Thorpe House School  
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