



Appointment of Teacher of Mathematics, September 2019

The School

Sutton Valence is an independent, HMC co-educational day and boarding school situated in mid Kent. It is part of, and overlooks, the picturesque village of Sutton Valence whilst being just a few miles from Maidstone and within convenient travelling time from central London. Maidstone, the County Town of Kent, is five miles away. The Eurostar station at Ashford makes access to Europe straightforward and Heathrow and Gatwick airports are within an hour's drive from Sutton Valence. The School's roll is currently 560 of which 170 are boarders. Sutton Valence Preparatory School occupies its own site in the neighbouring village of Chart Sutton and currently has 320 pupils between the ages of 3 and 11.

Whilst not fiercely selective on entry, its value added statistics are impressive. For those subjects Sutton Valence offers at A Level, the School aims to be in the top 10% nationally for adding value, managing to bring out the academic potential in every pupil. Equally impressive is the breadth of education on offer, which at GCSE is tailored to each pupil's strengths, recognising that academic achievement is only one measure of success. Individuality, confidence, poise and the strength of character to meet the complexities of modern living with equanimity are the hallmarks of a Sutton Valence pupil.

Class sizes are small and the overall pupil-staff ratio of 9:1 enables Sutton Valence pupils to benefit from the close guidance and individual attention of teachers. The academic staff are all highly-qualified subject specialists. The School has a flourishing drama department and a fine musical tradition. Contained within the 100 acre site are dedicated games pitches, a superb astro-pitch, an all-weather athletics track and field sport arena and a sports centre which contains a fitness suite and an indoor six-lane swimming pool.

Much factual information about the School can be gleaned from its literature and website, but neither quite convey the sense of community, purpose, optimism and inclusion which exists among the staff and pupils and is evident on walking round the site.

Sutton Valence has a committed Governing Body whose mix of skills, experience and personalities bring a breadth of wisdom to its decision making. Sutton Valence School is part of the United Westminster Greycoat Foundation.

The Department

The Mathematics Department at Sutton Valence School is one in which we promote not only successful outcomes in results but, as importantly, an enjoyment of the subject. We are always looking for new creative approaches to teaching that inspire our pupils to want to take the subject further and understand that confident and engaged learners are the key to this. Within the

department, collaboration is actively encouraged with members of the team looking to support not only our pupils but also each other. It is important to us that staff within the department are given both the opportunity to explore areas of personal professional development, as well as creating leadership opportunities for those wishing to advance their careers.

Within the department we actively promote the School community ethos and offer a variety of both support and extension activities within the school day to enable all pupils to be mathematically catered for. Our IGCSE revision sessions are often fully booked within minutes of being advertised. In addition to revision sessions, pupils participate in a range of national competitions including the UKMT challenges, the National Cipher Challenge and we even host our own junior competition that is fiercely contested by our local schools. Those wishing to apply to university to study Mathematics are offered support sessions and guidance in order to prepare them for their next steps.

The department use the Edexcel examination board for both A Level and GCSE, where for the latter we take the International GCSE. In addition to the IGCSE, pupils in the top set are also offered the opportunity to take the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics. The uptake at A Level is strong and pupils are also given the chance to study Further Mathematics to A Level. We have recently introduced the 'Mathematics in Context - Level 3' qualification which is proving extremely successful with pupils who do not choose to take the full A Level, but still wish to take their studies further.

The department is well resourced. All members of staff are provided with a laptop and graphical calculators to support teaching. All of the classrooms have interactive whiteboards. Members of the department have access to a wide range of software packages and are encouraged to make suggestions for any new teaching aids to support their teaching.

The Post

We are looking for a well-qualified, experienced and enthusiastic teacher with a passion for the subject and for teaching. The person appointed would be expected to teach pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 and across our ability range (wider than that of a traditional grammar school, but not as wide as that of a comprehensive school). An ability to teach both the most academic and the less able, with equal confidence, is thus a primary requirement of the position.

Outside of the Mathematics department, there is scope for involvement in the School's varied programme of co-curricular activities. Opportunities exist to participate in the coaching of major sports, the Community Service programme, the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme and in our many clubs and activities. All teachers at the School are expected to be heavily involved in the co-curricular and sport programme. Candidates will be expected to take an active role in the pastoral care of our pupils, which is based on a house system, with vertical tutor groups.

Full commitment to the co-curricular life of the School is expected and, as we are a six-day-a-week school with academic lessons taught on Saturday morning, staff may be required to work on a Saturday afternoon to assist with, or cover for, sporting fixtures.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. A copy of the School's Child Protection policy is enclosed.

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Sutton Valence pay scale. Teachers are expected to participate in the Department for Education's Pension Scheme unless they chose to opt out. Accommodation may be available. Rent is charged at one-third of the market rent for the property concerned for the first three years, rising to two-thirds market rent for the next two years and full market rent thereafter. The School operates a contributory private medical insurance scheme which is open to all members of staff. Staff can use the fitness facilities in the Sports Hall in the evening. Staff with a contract for at least one full term and who have children attending either the Senior School or the Preparatory School will be eligible to receive a discount in respect of School fees. The current rate of discount is 65% for full-time staff, and for part-time staff the relevant percentage will be calculated on a pro rata basis.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to satisfactory references, the completion of a successful medical examination and criminal record check via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Letters of application should state what particular skills and attributes you can bring to Sutton Valence School, brief details of how you fit the position, including specific details of skills, experience and achievements, and details of any interests and hobbies.

Letters of application, together with a completed application form and monitoring form, should be sent as soon as possible to the Headmaster at:

Sutton Valence School, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent ME17 3HL
Telephone no: 01622 845203, fax: 01622 845301.